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EDITORIAL

SERVICEABLE, TO WHOM?

By DANIEL DE LEON

AT the meeting of the Economic Club of Boston, held on the 16th instant, Mr. Edward A. Filene, one of the largest department store owners of that city came to the conclusion that “the Unions had come to stay” and proceeding from these premises he declared that what the employers should now do was “to render the Unions more serviceable.”

More serviceable, to whom?

Do what employers might, they have failed in America to harness the Trades Union Movement to their own service. They have bribed leaders; through these they have corrupted wide layers of the rank and file, and clapped the blinkers of ignorance upon them. All that have the employers done, but never have they succeeded in that without which all their other success remained in danger of being overthrown. Never have they been able to snap the springs of the working class's instinctive sense of class. The class struggle has continued. It was inevitable that with that Socialist thought should progress. The Filenes realize the fact that the progress has taken place. So realizing, they see their previous schemes breaking down, and they now gather once more at the Economic Club to fix their fences. For the hundredth time they decide that the Union is so “good a thing” that it must be “helped.” Each such previous decision was an evidence that some previous scheme or other had failed and the flood was running in. The present scheme is to “render the Union serviceable” by stemming the inroads of Socialism—Mrs. Malaprop over again.

What the Filenes should do is dismiss their Gompers lieutenants. These have proved utterly futile. They have banked the current for a while; they may have contributed to throw disrepute upon Unionism; they may have done all that, but they have failed in any permanent success. The agitation, education and

propaganda of the Socialist Labor Party is taking effect. The American working class will not be sapped of its spirit. The Filenes should keep the cash with which they have been subsidizing their labor lieutenants. They will need it nearer home.

The organized efforts of the Working Class will not be rendered serviceable to the Capitalist Class.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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slpns@slp.org