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VOL. XIV. No. 45.

TWO FLIES WITH ONE CLAP

SIC SEMPER

The Milwaukee, Wis., "Wahrheit"—a "Social Democratic," alias "Socialist," alias "Public Ownership" party paper, which more than once has branded the "New Yorker Volkszeitung" as corrupt—has now, together with its English yoke-fellow, the Milwaukee "Social Democratic Herald," hurled the first fulmination against the Manifesto, issued recently from Chicago, and published in these columns, for the purpose of getting an end to the labor-disrupting practices of A. F. of L. and, as was to be expected, the "New Yorker Volkszeitung," also of that party, reproduces with well explainable satisfaction the fulmination from the columns of its one-time brander. Thus these two flies have placed themselves nicely where they may be flattened out with one clap.

CONGRESSIONAL

CRUMBS THROWN TO 'MINOR PIRATES BY THEIR BIGGER BROTHERS.

The True Inwardness of the Seal Fishery Claims—A Bill to Indemnify Would-Be Law Breakers for Unrealized Profits—Men Who Failed in an Attempt to Raid the Federal Treasury Under the Assumed Mask of Foreign Subjects, Are Now Led by Dark-Lantern Senators to Accomplish Their End.

CONGRESSIONAL

GOV. MEADS

Sees the Lettering On the Wall and Quakes. Tumwater, Wash., Jan. 18.—During the past two years, the students in the state university in the city of Seattle, by studying De Leon's Reform or Revolution and the Kautsky pamphlets, have become very perceptibly imbued with the principles of Socialism of the simple pure brand, which has become a source of worry to the management.

CONGRESSIONAL

DER ARBEITER

A Straight S. L. P. Paper Up to the Handle in the Jewish Language. We take pleasure in informing the comrades that the Socialist Labor Club of New York, an organization founded for the purpose of publishing a weekly S. L. P. paper in the Jewish language, is now publishing "Der Arbeiter" (The Workman).

CONGRESSIONAL

BRAVO, LONDON!

Increased Vote Polled in Provincial Election—Will Continue Forward. London, Canada, Jan. 25.—We, the members of Section London, have today met the capitalist class at the hustings in the Provincial Election for the third time. Our first effort resulted in 126 votes. Our second effort in 1902, resulted in ninety-four votes.

CONGRESSIONAL

BELLEVILLE SOCIAL DANCE.

Social Dance to be given by the Illinois State Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor Party, at Huff's Hall, Belleville, Ill., Saturday evening, February 11, 1905. Admission 25 cents. Ladies free.

CONGRESSIONAL

FORWARD, PHILADELPHIA.

The members of Section Philadelphia are hereby called upon to attend the regular meeting of the Section on Sunday, February 5, 1905, at 2:30 p. m. Important business is to be brought before the meeting, making for the forward movement of the party in this city.

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The next regular meeting of Section Milwaukee will be held Saturday evening, February 11th, at S. L. P. Headquarters. Every comrade should be present as business of vital importance will be transacted and every member's opinion is desired.

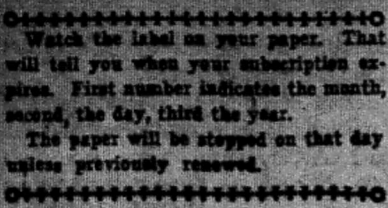
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WEEKLY PEOPLE

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1905.

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SECOND EXPLOSION

MORE TO COME

(From the Jan. 18, 1905, issue of the Helena, Mont., "Montana News," an organ of the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic Party.) WILL GO TO S. L. P. The first real revolt in the Socialist movement arising from the "impossibilists" and the "revisionist compromisers" at the last national convention, occurred lately in Faribault, Minn., when the local organ of that place withdrew from the party organization of that State, and passed, condemning resolutions against the opportunist, middle-class element that appears to be in the majority.

adopted at Chicago. All things to all men. As to work hours, etc., they propose to starve King Capitalism into submission by degrees. TRADES UNIONISM In the United States—From Early Times Up to the Coming Chicago Conference. A very interesting lecture on Trades Unionism in the United States was delivered by Justus Ebert, before the Bronx Borough Labor Union, L. A. 140, S. T. & L. A., on Thursday evening, January 26. On account of the weather the meeting was not as well attended as usual. However, a fair-sized audience, including strangers, listened attentively to the lecturer, who pointed out that American trades unions, from their earliest inception, were actuated by the Socialist spirit and more or less based upon Socialist principles, in contradistinction to the A. F. of L. which is capitalist in spirit and based on the capitalist principle of the mutual interests of capital and labor.

# THE IRREPRESSIBLE CLASS CONFLICT IN COLORADO

The Struggle for the Eight-Hour Day—Its History  
Significance and Failure, Culminating in  
the Capitalist Riots of 1904.

Written by H. J. BRIMBLE,  
Florence, Colorado, 1904.

FIFTH EPISODE—Concluded.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATTER.

## I.

### THE CRIMES OF THE WESTERN FEDERATION OF MINERS.

The crimes of the Western Federation of Miners constitute a fruitful theme with those who are fighting the battles of the mine owners in the public press. Lately the enemies of the miners have taken to pamphleteering, and the literary bureaus of the governor and his backers are being worked overtime. In addition, that the Republican party may be furnished with an "impartial" estimate of the events which have caused so much discussion, to be used by the managers of that party as a campaign document to offset the use made by the Democrats of the fruits of Peabody's criminal policy, Walter Wellman, a Washington correspondent, was sent into the State, and his articles, opening with a semblance of fairness, wound up with a tirade against the Western Federation of Miners that was calculated to warm the cockles of the bags of money worn by the exploiters of the State in place of hearts.

To residents of this State Wellman's articles were, in the main, simply ridiculous: the man's ignorance and his desire to clear the governor and the Republican party being very much in evidence.

To this discussion the Socialist Labor Party brings an open mind, and, while championing the cause of the workers, will meet the charges of the mine owners and the State administration fairly and openly, something that cannot be said of many looked upon by the Western Federation of Miners as being more friendly to its cause than we. We shall not take up this phase of the subject with the object of proving that the members of the union are a set of persecuted angels, incapable of any of the crimes charged to them by their enemies. That would be an absurd procedure. But we shall take up the subject in a manner worthy of sanity and truth.

The first question which confronts us is: "Is the Western Federation of Miners a criminal organization?" This, to the man who endeavors to get at the truth, resolves itself at once into a question of evidence. The writer, during the past year, has taken part in many, many arguments upon this very point, and the question: "Where is your evidence?" has been, in a majority of cases, quite sufficient to put an end to all discussion.

There has been much talk of an "inner circle" in the union, entrusted with the commission of crime. Talk is cheap, and until the mine-owners come forward with something better than unsupported assertions, we may safely ignore them on this point.

### JUDGES OWERS AND DE FRANCE RECALLED.

One of the many complaints brought against the union miners by the Mine Owners' Association, the Citizens' Alliance and the State Administration—a blessed trinity—is that in certain places the union controlled the peace officers and that it was impossible to secure justice. When Judge Owers took action on behalf of the exiled miners of Idaho Springs—who, by the way, have since been subjected to the persecution of the liberty-loving Citizens' Alliance—and against the mob of "respectable" citizens who violated the law and made a boast of it, these respectable citizens and their friends all over the State declared that Judge De France would fix "those anarchists" when he returned to the bench.

Well, the judge did return, and the cases were tried in as fair a court as may be found in the land, but I have yet to hear of any jubilation over the outcome of the trials upon the part of the men who were not as anxious to see justice done as they were to railroad the men who had opposed them to the pen.

The Western Federation of Miners has within its ranks scores of spies, placed there by the mine owners, and it had them there in the past. These men must have penetrated to all parts of the union, and, had the union been a criminal organization, had there been, in reality, an "inner circle" of choice spirits to whom no crime was too vile, surely the evidence of such would have been at hand ere this. We want something more convincing than the mere word of the mine owners, some of whom are direct descendants of Ananias and Sapphira.

Let us for a moment admit that what the Peabody administration and its backers say of the union is true, and that it is a turbulent body, full of designing criminals and honest men. Would it not then be a reproduction of Capitalism in little? The critics would have us look upon this phase of unionism as an isolated fact. We know better than to do anything like that, and, if the Western Federation of Miners be as vile an organization as its most rabid opponents would have us believe, the Socialist may say: "Then, my friend, Capitalism, the system of society which you uphold and which you desire to perpetuate, is responsible."

### A LUDICROUS APPLICATION OF SOCIALIST THEORY.

One of the points upon which the Mine Owners' Association is most insistent is the question of ore-stealing. With the craft commonly attributed to the Jesuits the mine owners are endeavoring to make it appear that this crime against society—or their pockets, which is the same thing—is the fruit of the avowed Socialist principles of the Western Federation of Miners. A quotation

from a pamphlet issued by the "Colorado Mine Operators' Association" serves admirably as an illustration:

"The Western Federation of Miners is openly and formally committed to a so-called Socialist political party which does not recognize the right of private property. On the union cards of the Western Federation of Miners, issued in the Cripple Creek district, is the following:

"Labor produces all wealth. Wealth belongs to the producer thereof."

"Many of the radical Socialist members and others who were naturally inclined to be dishonest, took the Federation at its word and the stealing of ore became a settled practice. Large quantities of ore were stolen from the mines and many tons from ore bins and cars, in the aggregate amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, upon the theory that it was not theft, because the ore did not belong to the mine owners. The ore-stealing mentioned shows that they were practically all committed Federation men, and, in all but one or two instances, the thieves escaped, because of the difficulty of convicting a union man, or because those who were to testify were afraid to do so, owing to the murderous policy of the Western Federation."

Indignation is apt to get the better of one upon the perusal of such a paragraph as that quoted. Of course, it is quite possible that men calling themselves Socialists may have interpreted Socialist principles in the manner suggested, but the idea that we are trying to expropriate the expropriator by the sneaking methods of the ore-thief is simply ludicrous. And remember, the charge is made by men connected with the stock broking gang of Colorado Springs, through whose manipulations the people of the country have been swindled out of millions. When the workers of America awaken to a realization of the truth so so maliciously misread here, they will not have recourse to the paltry methods of the ore-thief. The stealing of ore has not ceased with the extermination of the Western Federation of Miners in the Cripple Creek district. One would think that, there being little or no Socialist spirit among the men in their employment now, the mine owners of Teller County could lie down in peace, untroubled by dreams of the stolen "high-grade." Alas, the facts seem to point the other way. The mine-owners still think it necessary to employ an army of detectives to shadow their loyal workmen. Had the Western Federation of Miners never gone into the district the ore would have been stolen.

### CRIME BOAST OF CITIZENS' ALLIANCE.

The Western Federation of Miners never, to the best of my knowledge, boasted of a crime committed by its members. The Citizens' Alliance has done that. Much has been said of the buying of arms by the Telluride union and of the use to which they were put. The Citizens' Alliance mob of that place were around with rifles issued by the State, with the open approval of the governor, and the use to which these arms were put may be found in our treatment of the labor troubles in Telluride. The State loaned a gatling gun to the Standard mill people at Colorado City. If this point were brought up the chances are that the mill-owners would justify themselves by saying that, as they had hired the State militia, they were certainly entitled to the use of its equipment.

### REPREHENSIBLE COERCION.

The Western Federation of Miners cannot be held blameless. Members of that organization have committed crimes that were winked at by those at the head. Men have been assaulted and deported by the very individuals who are now going around berating Peabody and his men, because they have done the same thing. It would have paid the leaders of the Western Federation of Miners to have set their faces resolutely against any manifestations of the mob spirit. They are paying the penalty of their acquiescence in the excesses of their members now. The acts of the union men have not only furnished arguments for the mine owners, but excuses for their own criminal acts. What in the name of common sense could have induced the Western Federation of Miners to countenance such notices as those posted in the Cripple Creek district in 1901? We are shocked at this idea of men being forced to take out cards issued by the mine owners association before being able to obtain employment, but I cannot see that the coercion practiced by the mine owners is as bad as that attempted, and to an extent, carried out by the union leaders. In fact, I think the attempt upon the part of the union men to force outsiders into the organization is even more reprehensible than the work of the mine owners, as we naturally expect something better from men who make at least a pretense of practicing the brotherhood of man.

In closing this phase, I would say that, were the W. F. M. as bad as its enemies would make it out to be, the fact remains that they themselves are a thousand times worse. The evidence at hand, incomplete as it is, fully substantiates the charge.

## II.

### THE ASSASSINATION OF A. L. COLLINS.

Of all the events incidental to the labor war in Colorado, none is of greater interest than the assassination of the manager of the Smuggler Union mine, and none has been more lengthily discussed. In this treatment of this affair, the defenders of Governor Peabody view it as an isolated incident. I cannot and will not do so, and, that our readers may understand what is being written of, it is necessary to go back a little way.

Manager Collins had introduced what is known as the contract system, which is simply the application of the piece-work system to mining. Under the terms laid down by Mr. Collins, the miner was boarded at the company's boarding house and was furnished with powder and tools. When his contract terminated he was paid according to the amount of ore broken, from which the amount due the company for board, powder and incidentals was deducted.

The Smuggler Union is not a rich mine, and Manager Collins, in his anxiety to produce dividends, persistently tightened the screws, and it is said that while some men made fair wages, others quitted in debt to the company.

The men finally demanded the abolition of this system, and upon Manager Collins' declination to consider their proposals, a strike was ordered on May 1, 1901. A number of the old employees returned to work, and the force with recruits from the outside, numbered nearly 200 on July 1. As might be expected, the men were making higher wages than was the case under normal conditions.

The crisis of the struggle came on July 3, when a crowd of armed union men attacked the Smuggler Union, and in the fight that followed two of the defenders and one of the attacking force were killed and a number injured. Those in possession of the mine were forced to surrender and they were lined up and told to leave the district forever. It is said that a number of the deported men were brutally beaten, and one of them shot while making his way up the trail under the direction of his captors.

When the news of the wholesale deportation in Tellurich of March 14, 1904, was printed about, the incident related above was advanced by the men responsible for the crimes of the present year in justification of their acts. Those responsible for the outbreak of July 3, 1901, dreamt not of the blood and tears that would be spilled in a like move when the other side held the upper hand.

Through the mediation of the governor a truce was arranged, and an agreement was entered into between Collins and the miners, under which the contract system was to be continued, though in modified form. This was to run three years.

### MUNITIONS OF WAR VS. MINERS' LIVES.

On November 21, 1901, a fire broke out in some buildings at the mouth of the Bullion tunnel of the Smuggler Union mine. Edgar Collins, the superintendent, gave more thought to the salvage of Winchester rifles and certain other munitions of war than to the lives of the men consigned to his keeping, and, as a consequence, the fire gained great headway before a messenger was dispatched to warn the miners of their danger. The warm air of the inner workings sucked in the smoke and gas from the burning buildings, and when William Hutchinson, foreman of the Tomboy mine, and a force of men whose attention had been attracted by the fire came upon the scene, Hutchinson at once ordered that the mouth of the tunnel be blown up.

It had been apparent for some time that the buildings could not be saved, and as the mine was not equipped with appliances designed to meet just such an emergency, the responsibility for the lives of the twenty-two men who perished, must be placed upon the management of the mine.

I am credibly informed that a little while prior to the "accident" spoken of, a committee of miners waited upon Manager Collins, requesting the installation of means by which life could be saved in case of fire in the mine buildings, a premonition that was to develop into a dreadful reality. Mr. Collins promptly declined to consider the request, declaring that while he was manager he would run the mine as he saw fit, and would admit of no interference.

Why have the men who are so busily exploiting the assassination of Collins in their campaign against the Western Federation of Miners refrained from touching upon the deaths of the unfortunate miners, the end of whom was brought about by the criminal negligence of the man who had undertaken to produce dividends where others had failed? They deem it an "Act of God," as did Adjutant General Gardner, when the lives of seventeen men employed in the Liberty Bell mine were wiped out by a snow slide, although it was shown that the company had cut the trees on the mountain side for mining timbers, thus increasing the possibility of destructive avalanches. They deemed it "An act of Providence," as did the officers and subsidized press of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway when a train swept into a raging torrent, at a cost of one hundred and twelve lives, although it was being shown at the very time that the bridge, which was swept away, was old, rotten, and, in the first place, not fitted for the position. It is an "Act of God" to have a track unguarded when it is raining heavily in Colorado. That is what the men who are busily piling up wealth for the Gould family and its French count would have us believe.

### WHAT OF THE LIVES SACRIFICED ON THE ALTAR OF CAPITALIST GREED?

The end came to Arthur L. Collins on November 19th, 1902, when he was killed by a shot fired through the window while sitting at cards with friends. It is hard to conceive of a more detestable crime, and although he had been at odds with the union miners, none deplored the murder more than they, especially as it was certain that upon them would be placed the responsibility for the deed. Collins was a hard, fearless man, possessing the good and bad qualities for which Englishmen are notorious. There was nothing of the weak about him; nothing of the coward. He was master, and he didn't care who knew it.

Although the mine owners have spent thousands of dollars in probing the mystery, and have imported a small army of spies and detectives, having at their back at the same time the powers of the State and county, it is a fact that they have not yet produced evidence enough to convict a dog. Yet they go before the country proclaiming the guilt of the Western Federation of Miners, and the men connected with that organization, as if it were a settled thing, and there are "friends of labor" who insult the workingmen of Colorado by "defending" them against the accusations of men who are insane with terror at the thought of a possible uprising of the workers. I had thought it was time enough to think of defending a man when at least the shadow of a case had been made against him.

The workers of the State should pray as fervently to be defended from their professional "friends" as from their enemies.

The life of A. L. Collins was undoubtedly sweet to him and his. Then what must be said of the lives of the men sacrificed upon the altar of capitalist greed?

## III.

### "DRIVING AWAY CAPITAL."

One of the most persistently heard cries of the "Peace at any price" people, is that "Continued disturbances are driving capital out of Colorado."

Is that the case? Allow me to present a little evidence to the contrary; evidence that shows that if the little exploiters are being driven into the nets of the capitalists by the clatter raised by Peabody and his men, there never was a time in the history of the State when the great ones of earth were more eagerly engaged in appropriating and exploiting the resources of nature.

First, there is the case of D. H. Moffat, who at the present time

is building a particularly expensive line of railway; I have not heard that he is embarrassed for the want of money.

And again, consider the action of John D. Rockefeller and George Gould in spending millions to gain control of and develop the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. These men have their agents all over the State gobbling up thousands of acres of the finest coal lands in the world. Does this look as if "Capital is being driven from the State"?

One more instance and we will drop this phase. The "Rocky Mountain News" of August 27th and 28th, publishes statements that seem to confirm the worst suspicions entertained of the Peabody administration. It is said that D. H. Moffat, the most powerful financial magnet of the State, and a strong supporter of the governor, is once more investing heavily in the Cripple Creek district. A. E. Carlton, too, the leader against the union miners in the district, has been a heavy investor during the past year.

This, without further comment, will show the extent to which "Capital is being driven out of Colorado."

## IV.

### PEABODY, MARTIAL LAW, AND

The governor and his friends are now claiming that he has never declared martial law in this State. Well, he may be technically correct in his statement, but I leave the reader of the foregoing pages to satisfy himself as to the kind of law under which Colorado has been governed during the past two years.

The governor also states that his fight has been directed solely against the "socialistic, anarchistic" Western Federation of Miners, and many writers, taking this statement as being true, when it is a barefaced lie, have enlarged upon the benefits conferred upon unionism by "sober, conservative union leaders like Gompers and Mitchell," to the disparagement, of course, of the leaders of the Western Federation of Miners.

In no county of Colorado has the hand of Peabody been heavier than in Los Animas. The union men there, coal miners, against whom all the venom of the governor's nature has been directed, are members of that conservative organization, the United Mine Workers of America, and led by that conservative man, John Mitchell. There is not in the entire county a single local union of the Western Federation of Miners. This disposes of the governor's statement as to his crusade being directed solely against the Western Federation of Miners.

## V.

### THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

As might be expected, the stirring events of the past two years have reacted powerfully on the politics of the State, and a consideration of the outlook may be of value.

### THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

The Republican party comes up for treatment first, and all we have to say in regard to it is that those in control of the party are "standing pat" on Peabody and his policy. The governor was renominated for office, and we are promised two years more of rigorous repression of any forward movement on the part of the workers, in case of his re-election. The men in possession of that party have, at last, found the man for whom they have been looking and they mean to keep him in office.

There is one good feature about this: The issue is made absolutely clear. That is what we Socialists desire above all things.

Turning to the Democratic party we are confronted by a curious medley of opinions. The leaders are vastly pleased at the prospect of receiving a solid labor vote, but they do not relish the idea of standing sponsor for the work of the trades unionists. As a matter of fact, there is very little difference between the leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties; what difference there is is all on the surface.

In my estimate of the Democratic party as it exists in Colorado to-day, I cannot do better than quote from an article which appeared in the "Independent," from the pen of William English Walling:

### THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

"The dominant faction in the Democratic machine," says Mr. Walling, "is conservative, composed largely of business men and corporation lawyers. I talked with some of them. One comparing the success of the mine owners with the difficulties of the Chicago packers, said that they were on the upgrade in the East, while Colorado had passed the climax and was going down hill. He defended the mobs of the Citizens' Alliance and said that he would have done the same thing under the same conditions. He approved of Governor Peabody and approved of martial law, though he expected to take advantage of what he considered to be the mistakes of the Supreme Court and the militia. The Western Federation of Miners were a 'lot of red-handed anarchists and murderers' to be annihilated. The unions he was 'glad to see licked.' He proposed to get the union votes, but their platform was to be ignored, and a candidate for governor was to be chosen who would concede nothing to the labor element. The workingmen were to be given two conservative candidates, one Democratic and one Republican, and they were to be told: 'Now choose, damn you, choose.' Another Democrat, a former governor, has threatened to bolt if there is any pandering to the labor element. Another, equally prominent, has nothing to say about the Citizen's Alliance or martial law, although he objected to the deportations. 'The Democrats do not object to the use of the government to break the strike.'"

It may be argued that the writer exaggerates. Not at all. Did space and time but permit, it would be shown that the foregoing is an under, rather than an over estimate.

To Be Concluded  
Next Week.