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EDITORIAL

ORGANIZED SCABBERY SCORES ITSELF.

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The International Typographical Union, presumably an organization of wage workers, has just issued a political leaflet called the *Bulletin*. It is directed against the *Sun*, and it frequently calls attention to the fact that the *Sun* is a scab publication. Between the *Bulletin* and the *Sun* the working class has nothing to choose. Between their ratiness {ratty ness} there is not an iota of difference. If anything can be said in their favor, it must all go to the *Sun*. Granted that it is a rat concern; granted that it is opposed to trades unions; granted that its barbaric yaps of joy over the shooting down of the strikers at Hazleton and the imprisonment of strikers at Wardner yet ring in the ears of the working class—still that ratiness {ratty-ness} does not palliate the ratiness {ratty-ness} of No. 6. The latter is the rat, the vermin, that infests a plague ship, that grows fat and sleek on the victims, that disseminates the plague wherever it goes, and which is a rat whether or not it fights other rats.

Big Six, organized scabbery in the printing trade; Big Six, whose prize calves have more honor, more honesty, and more intelligence than its officers, came out and having struck at the rat *Sun*, and the party which it advocates, booms the rat *Journal*, the rat *World* and the other rats, gray, drab, and yellow, which support the Democratic party. It may be that this is an endorsement of union card-holding Steunenberg, and his record as a labor man. It may possibly be an endorsement of Bryan, and his silence when his party used troops forcibly to suppress strikers. Above all, it may simply be an endorsement of the free silver that rolled voluminously into the pockets of the officers of the I.T.U., and the free silver that rolls voluminously out of the pockets of the starving membership to pay dues.

The picture is not complete until the other side is given. The I.T.U. has also roundly scored the I.T.U. for deserting the party of sound money. It has thrown a convulsion in fat type at such misconduct as an attack on sound money, and legitimate expansion. It has worked might and main for the re-election of William

McKinley. Then it has worked might and main for the election of William Jennings Bryan. There is no politics in the union for you!

The International Typographical Union is worse than the retailers of chaste charms at so much per charm. It occupies the masculine side of the fence. It is the kept man of politics. A body of men whom there should not be money enough to buy is at the service of those who grant a favor to the leaders. Grant? The grant comes because the leaders beg for it, because they solicit from behind the closed doors of the “non-political” trades union. When a chance wayfarer comes along, they even quarrel for his money; they fight, as the two sections of the I.T.U. are now fighting. They line up as “non-political” Democrats, branding the *Sun* as a rat; and then the “non-political” Republicans brand the others as enemies to the sound financial policy of the country, and as traitors who would haul down “our” flag when God has placed it over another country. The Republicans take the stand that the party of the rat *Sun* is worthy of support, and the Democrats take the stand that the miner-shooting governor of Idaho is a union man.

The same paper that contains the tirade against the *Sun* also contains a recommendation of the *Herald*. It gives in detail the result of two advertisements of the Mergenthaler Company. The *Herald* is the better advertising medium of the two, and the International Typographical Union booms both it and the Mergenthaler. This same union has bucked the Mergenthaler, and its unscientific attitude threw it into convulsions. Since then, with the condition of its membership steadily on the down grade, it has played at politics, and it has played as only a politician can play a good thing.

Never again can this organization appear before the working class and appeal for support. Never again can it contend that there is a spark of honesty or usefulness left. The kept man of politics and trades unionism must be smashed. It has been a burden and an eye-sore too long, but it has written its doom. The leaflets it has issued at the command of its joint owners, the Republican and Democratic parties, are the evidence that convicts it. Nothing can be added, excepting to point to the foulness of its demise.

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

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