

EDITORIAL

## THE ASININITY OF “H’ORGANIZED” LABOR.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE asininity of what presumes to call itself “Organized Labor,” and is known in just derision as “h’Organized Labor,” is again exemplified in its participation in the fruitless attacks upon the Beef Trust.

For years “h’Organized Labor,” that is to say, the “Organized Scabbery” that runs the old style Unions, has failed in its attempts to organize the workingmen employed in the plants of the corporations composing the combine. The result has been the imposition of conditions which have created a terrific development of speed in work, without a corresponding increase in wages. Men are cast aside as soon as they show an inability to keep up with the exhausting pace set by the steam and electric-driven machine. Women have been introduced in many of the branches; and, it is believed, that in the course of a short time, they will even wield the knife used in the slaughter of cattle. Against these monstrous conditions “h’Organized Labor” has proven powerless; aye, by its criminal conduct, it has nursed them.

With the recent rise in the price of beef, eggs, butter and other food products, largely consumed by the working class and controlled by the Beef Trust to the detriment of the middle class, there have arisen several outcries against the Beef Trust, in which “h’Organized Labor” has joined.

Newspapers and political organizations, desirous of extending their circulation and their influence among the middle and the working classes, have inaugurated movements for the purpose of securing state and federal investigation of and legislation against the Beef Trust. Vegetarian societies, anxious to improve the shining hour for propaganda, have urged the use of fruits and cereals instead of meat. All are sure that by these means the Beef Trust will be beaten and its extortionate practices rendered ineffectual.

To these movements, “h’Organized Labor,” incapable of attacking the conditions

which beset Beef Trust employees, has given its direct and indirect endorsement. By resolution it has joined in the demand for state and federal investigation and legislation and praised those newspapers and organizations advocating them; while with an eye out for vegetarian approval, it has urged the working class to abstain from the use of meat during a certain period.

The value of these measures is best appreciated when it is recollected that the Beef Trust, in common with many other Trusts, has already been the object of investigation and legislation without any detriment to the interests of the corporations composing it. Who has forgotten the "Embalmed Beef" investigation and legislation? Who will fail to remember the oft-repeated investigation and legislation against the Standard Oil, the Sugar, and other Trusts? The history of Trust investigation and legislation has proven that modern government is nothing more nor less than a committee of capitalists for the protection and defense of capitalists. To appeal to a government so constituted for investigation and legislation, in the hope of securing a remedy, is not only nonsensical, but it is asinine; extremely so, as it shows an obstinacy in the pursuit of a course which experience has repeatedly proven, can only result in failure.

The same may be said of the appeal to abstain from the use of meat for the purpose of beating the Trust. This is like jumping from the frying pan into the fire; for, if the workingman concludes to eat cereals exclusively he places himself in the power of the Cereal Trust. Should he fly from the Cereal Trust to the Fruit Trust, his condition will remain unaltered. No matter which way he turns the Trust will be there to receive him, and make him pay for the reception, too.

Capitalist "investigation" and legislation, together with vegetarianism, will not "bust" Trusts; nor will they end them. Trusts can only be advantageously ended by making them social property. Society must own, control, and operate them for its own benefit. There is no other way out.

As a first step to this end, the working class must organize politically, for the purpose of securing control of the functions of government, so that we may have a government of, by, and for, the working class. To this end a political party is needed.

The Democratic and Republican parties are out-and-out Trust parties, being out-and-out controlled by the capitalist class.

The Kangaroo Social Democratic, alias "Socialist" party, is but a decoy duck for

these, as shown by the numerous instances of its members running on Republican, or Democratic, or “Citizen” tickets.

The Prohibition and Populist parties are vagaries, and not always innocent vagaries either.

There is but one party in the land of approved trustworthiness,—the Socialist Labor Party.

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

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