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EDITORIAL

## “LABOR” PAPERS.

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**T**HERE are many well-meaning workingmen, even among those of the so-called “advanced” type, who regard any criticism or attack upon an alleged “labor” paper as a sacrilege, worthy of condemnation only.

Laboring under the superstition that whatever bears the word “labor” in name also stands for it in fact, they are blind to the true condition of affairs, which is generally the very reverse of what they believe; for often, too often, in truth, is not only a “labor” paper not a labor paper, but it is a capitalist paper of the most rabid kind, actuated by capitalist principles and engaged in furthering capitalists’ interests.

The *Typographical Journal*, the official organ of the International Typographical Union, is a “labor” paper of the character described. Its May number is full of illustrations of the truth of the statements made regarding the alleged “labor” paper.

Deceit, or diplomacy, as some prefer to call it, is a capitalist principle. The capitalist class preaches the brotherhood of capital and labor in order that it may more effectually plunder labor. So also we witness the “labor” journal professing great love for the capitalist for the purpose of earning more jobs, while it is preaching organization to resist his class aggression.

This disgusting truckling is illustrated in the May number of the *Typographical Journal* as follows. In the report from Denver, Colo., appears the following:

“The Denver *Times* has reduced its prices. . . . Banker Moffat recently purchased the paper and many improvements are contemplated. The *Times* is a clean, conservative sheet, and numbers among its readers Denver’s best class of citizens.”

As is evident to the careful reader, the writer feels constrained to propitiate the new owner of the *Times*, as the reduced price may include such “improvements” as reduced

wages, or a change of force, etc., etc.

Again is this the same resort to deceit or jollyng repeated in reports from Watertown, N.Y., New Brunswick, N.J., and other places.

This resort to deceit will undoubtedly be justified on the ground that employees must “jolly” their immediate employers; but what can be said of the following, which teaches that the evolution of capitalism can and must be combatted by “organized labor,” in order to save the middle class, the greatest exploiters of labor in existence?

“In this age of concentrated capital and gigantic aggregations of moneyed element of the world. . . . When trusts threaten to disrupt even a republican form of government, creating two great classes. . . and abolishing that indispensable factor in free government, the middle class, it behooves the representatives of every form of labor to ‘unite,’” etc. (Report from Cincinnati, O.).

Again, what can be said in defense of a “labor” journal which prints reports laudatory of Mark Hanna and his infamous Civic Federation? Yet this is done as follows in the *Typographical Journal* referred to in the report from Boston, to wit:

“A local paper says that Mark Hanna would be more interested in preventing the coal strike if he knew just who was going to be a candidate in 1904. He settled one great coal strike in 1900, when his friend McKinley was a candidate. . . . Candidate or not, he has shown what he can do, not only in the above instance, but in the case of the iron workers of San Francisco.”

Finally, what can one say of that “labor” journal which retails information calculated to create a wrong impression as the following, also from the same report:

“Ben Hanford was in town May 4 and 5. . . . Mr. Hanford is the man who made such a sensational run on the Socialist ticket for Governor of New York.”

“Sensational” with a vengeance. “Mr.” Hanford, despite the backing of “organized” scabbery, and the old party politicians with which it is lined, came out at the tail end of the election.

Such is the *Typographical Journal* for May. Rich in the practice of capitalist deceit, fertile in schemes for the advancement of capitalist economic and political interests,

both large and small, false in the information it retails, who is there so devoid of the true conception of labor’s manliness and interests as to say it would be sacrilege to criticize and attack it? And who is there who does not believe that all such “labor” papers should be treated likewise?

The *Typographical Journal* for May is typical of its breed, the “labor” journals.

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