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EDITORIAL

JOKIST, GOLD-BRICKIST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MATTHEW WOLL in the *American Photo-Engraver* declares:

“Unconsciously and irresistibly, the American Federation of Labor is being revolutionized. Its tendency toward the principles of industrial unionism is becoming more pronounced day by day. In fact, it would seem that the American Federation of Labor is the agency—the organization that will make industrial unionism in America possible.”

Charity induces the reader of such views to consider the writer thereof a jokist.

What if not a joke is a statement that “day by day” the tendency of the A.F. of L. is toward industrial unionism, when what is seen day by day and with increasing emphasis is the guild-craft expression of A.F. of L.-ism. Whether it is in the strikes of the boilermakers, or in the strikes of the papermakers, or in the strikes of the miners, or in the strikes of the carmen, or in the strikes of the composers, that have recently followed one another in rapid succession, the only tendency that has been noticeable is an aggravation of A.F. of L. guild-craftism. When the boilermakers struck, and wherever they did, the A.F. of L. machinists remained at work—scabbing; when the papermakers struck, the electricians remained at work—scabbing; when the miners struck, the drivers remained at work—scabbing; when the composers struck, the stereotypers and pressmen remained at work—scabbing; when the tractionmen struck, notably in Philadelphia, and only the other day, the men in the power-house remained at work—scabbing. And so all along the line: one affiliated Union has been insistently scabbing upon another, and even sister Unions upon sister Unions in the same International Union. The spectacle presented by the A.F. of L., so far from illustrating “day by day” progress towards industrialism, betrays concentrated guild-craft dry-rot.

Surely so tragic and Civic Federationist a spectacle should not be taken by Mr.

Matthew Woll as the subject for a joke. If he is not a jokist, then he must be a gold-brickist, seeking to deal out the gold-brick of guild-craftism under the appearance of industrialism.

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