

EDITORIAL

FULFILLING ITS MISSION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN a certain city—the name is here left unmentioned lest it compromise our informant—a Scale Committee of the International Typographical Union held a conference with the publishers of the locality to draw up a new scale for the ensuing calendar year. During the discussion the spokesman for the publishers said in effect:

“If the Union will guarantee that the employes in other departments, both the unorganized and the organized, will make no demands for an increase in wages based on the advance granted to the printers, then the publishers will accede to the demands of the printers. The demands of the printers are so trifling that it is not worth spending time upon them. But we are compelled to refuse them without we are assured that, should the men in the other departments seize upon the increase as a pretext to ask for more pay, the printers will stand by us.”

The object was obvious. The bait was held out to the Scale Committee to betray the kindred or allied trades. In honor of the Committee be it said it declined an increase at that price. Yet things did not remain as they were before the conference.

Whatever workingman member of the conference still may have had his doubts as to the “autonomy” of a craft, had the illusion pretty well shaken. Whatever workingman member of the conference may still have been in the dark concerning the scabbery that craft unionism is pivoted upon, had his eyes pretty well opened. Whatever workingman member of the conference was still up in the air, he may be expected to have landed upon his feet, and now stands upon the solid ground of the perception that craft unionism is the palladium of the employer.

The employing class in that conference fulfilled its mission. The capitalist will furnish the object lessons for Industrial Unionism.

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Uploaded October 2013

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