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EDITORIAL

## GRAPE NO. 1. (FAKIR ECONOMICS).

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**W**e have before this, during the week, commented upon that wonderful document, issued by the New Brigade of Organized Scabbery, otherwise known as the “Borers from Within,” in the International Cigarmakers’ Union against the Old Brigade: a fulmination by the “Irregulars” against the “Regulars.” We then simply took a bird’s-eye view of the performance, pointing out in general the identity of the two sets of scamps, together with their scamp papers, in the Labor Movement, as exemplified by the document itself, in that both were simply after the jobs at the expense of the rank and file.

The document, however, is a regular bunch of grapes. We propose here to start the culling of grapes from the bunch, one by one. Each grape will serve the double purpose of elucidating the bona fide Labor Organization, and, by contrast, to pillory pure and simpledom together with its carrion crow leaders, the Labor Fakirs,—the “Irregular” along with the “Regular.”

The third paragraph of the document sets out:

“The hope for success in the economic struggle rests WHOLLY upon being able to prevent the capitalists from acquiring the merchandise which secures to them their profit.”

This is substantially the language of the Old Brigade of Organized Scabbery. Directly and by indirection, the passage asserts the false and denies the sound principles of Unionism.

It is false to imply that the strike and boycott, unaided by the class-conscious cannonade of an uncompromising class-conscious political party of Labor, can bring on success; it is false to imply that such a cannonade can possibly be effected through a form of organization, such as the International Cigarmakers Union, which denies the class struggle, which denies the fact that the wages and politics are inseparably connected, which brands as a “scab” the member who would lower

wages in the shop and yet glorifies with offices and otherwise the member who scuttles wages by supporting political principles of the capitalist class; finally, it is false to say that there is any possibility of success worth mentioning via the economic struggle—the strike and boycott—exclusively.

“Not so” says the brigade of the Organized Scabbery. To hold such language would be to cut the ground from under themselves. It is the gold brick they deal in to hold out pure and simple economic organization as self-sufficient, and to hold out merely economic measures of offence and defence as possible and effective. The paragraph quoted above is a chip of the Organized Scabbery block, it is an echo of the sometimes ignorant, other times corrupt Labor Fakir. Success in the economic struggle does not, to-day, any longer depend WHOLLY upon manoeuvres on the economic field alone, or of economic character only.

To-day, success in the economic struggle of the Working Class depends ENTIRELY upon the soundness of its organization. If the Trade Union is sound, success is certain; if unsound, failure is inevitable. As a tub is not sound, however hale its hoops and staves may be, if it is bottomless, so a Trade Union is a bottomless tub if it is not planted on the principle that, how the members vote is of as much importance as how they work. The Solidarity of Labor means the moving as one man at the hustings, as well as in the shop; and such unity of action is impossible except exclusively along class-conscious lines.

Such an organization can have success, but its success comes partly from the circumstance that it affords no justification for the capitalist to imagine that it can be sold out; it has no standing-room for any officer whom the keen scent of the capitalist can suspect of being a fit subject for bribery; in short, its structure leaves no air for moral and intellectual lepers, such as the “Regulars” or “Irregulars” to breathe in.

No wonder that the “Borers from Within” hold at all critical moments language that is as false and as misleading as that of their elder brothers, the “Regulars.”

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