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EDITORIAL

“NON-PARTISAN” POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

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THE *Iron Moulders' Journal* for this month gives encouraging evidence of the soundness of the Socialist Labor Party tactics towards the pure and simple trades union. The S.L.P. tactics embrace two points:

1. That boring from without is essential to drive the labor fakir from his stand;
2. That the labor fakir however driven will never willingly give up his attitude of

being a bar to the enlightenment of the rank and file.

Both points are proven by the *Iron Moulders' Journal*.

In an article on the “Echoes of the Convention” recently held by them it starts saying;

“Both in the resolutions offered and the reports of the several committees there breathes a certain progressive spirit that can not be mistaken. Indications are not lacking that the members of the Iron Molders' Union are breaking away from the tenets of the old school of trades-unionism and taking their place in the younger school, with broader views and a more comprehensive grasp of present conditions. It is painful, at times, to witness the tenacity displayed by workingmen in holding on to something that was deemed good a quarter of a century ago, even in face of the daily demonstration that its day had passed. That is a conservatism which still has its place in the old school, but that school is passing, and there is abroad a desire to adapt ourselves intelligently to changing and changed conditions.”

Such language is new; it is language never held before by pure and simpledom. Originally, pure and simpledom was perfect. It is now admitted that it is not; that old methods may fall behind date and new must be adopted. That is the direct result of the banging from without that the crew has received.

And as to the second point, this is the closing passage of the article:

“It is advised that non-partisan political and economic questions be discussed.”

Here is the old cloven hoof. “Non-partisan” politics and economics! As well talk of the play of Hamlet without Hamlet. All economic, all political questions are “partisan,” because they all are reflexes of class interests. Present these questions in “non-partisan” style, and the point is taken from all, and they become as insipid as stale beer. None knows this better than the modern labor fakir; hence none is more anxious for “non-partisanship.” It is synonymous with a helpless, because untutored, working class.

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