

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 248.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

“REALIZATION OF POSSIBILITIES.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

A LOCAL branch of the National Civic Federation was organized in this city last Tuesday. The local concern has the regulation component parts of “Employers,” “Employees” and “The Public.” It is a chip of the old, or “parent” block, as it styles the older concern of which Hanna is President and Gompers Vice-President. And yet it is not entirely the thing.

The President, Mr. Lewis Nixon, declared amid the loud plaudits of the Oscar Strausses, the John B. McDonalds and the Samuel B. Donnellys—the representatives of “Employers,” “Employees” and “Public”—that, in setting up the “local,” they all had a keen “realization of the possibilities” before them. What the “possibilities” are that this merry crew seeks a “realization” of, President Baer gave more than an insight of in his celebrated speech for the operators before the Arbitration Commission. President Baer, describing a session of the “parent” body, at which nothing less weighty was on hand than a debate between Mitchell and himself during the coal strike, said that “the distinguished gentlemen who constitute the Civic Federation sat there, wisely looking on,” they were “puffing good cigars,” and they “seemed to enjoy the discussion.” Whether one picks out at random a name from the “Employers” category, or the “Employees” category, or the “Public” category on the list of the members of the new local, it is clear that the applause that greeted President Nixon’s speech was sincere.

Take, for instance, Peter Doelger, the brewer, whose name appears in the “Employers” category. Can there be any doubt that he would enjoy any discussion on Labor provided he had good cigars to puff? He might even suggest the addition of some good beer.

Then look down the list of the “Employees” category. Heavens, who is there so sceptic as to except any of those distinguished gentlemen! Would James P. Archibald,

would Edward Moffet, would J.J. Pallas sneeze at puffing good cigars with or without beer “to wash it down,” and “look wise” even if the discussion be on “Labor!”

And so down the list of the “Public” category. The inevitable Right Rev. Henry C. Potter; Spencer Trask, the banker; Nicholas Murray Butler, the President of Columbia University;—these give quite a color to their category. The “looking wise” and the puff of good cigars is no objection to the “Public” set.

And there she goes, the merry long-boat of the local Civic Federation! With companion piece punched in by the miners’ strike, and with taff-rail staved in by the kick received from the Alliance-led weavers’ strike, the “parent” craft is left aside; and taking only some of its spars and sails, the long-boat is started on the merry cruise of wassailing for the “realization of possibilities.”

**Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded November 2006**