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EDITORIAL

NOTHING REMARKABLE.

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THERE is nothing remarkable in what the A.F. of L. *United Mine Workers' Journal* of the 4th instant calls "the very remarkable outcome" of the Schoenville Anarchist riots, the outcome being that the Pressed Steel Car Company has "formally announced that it will support the United Car Workers of America," and that "a local of this Union has been organized in the works of the steel plant"; in other words that the A.F. of L. United Car Workers of America are to take the places of the men now at work in the plant, and who have recently been in rebellion against the Company. To put it in still fewer words, the announcement made by the A.F. of L. organ is that the A.F. of L. is at its usual work of successful scabbery on the proletariat. Nothing remarkable in that; the event is doubly unremarkable, however significant.

The A.F. of L. is not a proletarian economic organization. The A.F. of L. is a guild concern, run upon bourgeois economics, avowedly in the interest of the capitalist social order; and, consequently, opposed to anything that endangers capitalism. The shop in which the workers are organized in the A.F. of L. is a ballasted ship. The ties of brotherhood between the employer and his employes may, at times, be strained; sundered they never are, however bloody the noses of the two brothers may, at times, come out of a conflict. 'Tis otherwise if the shop is unorganized, or organized outside of the A.F. of L.

If unorganized, then, even under the worst labor conditions, the ship of the shop is "tender." The shop is then like a ship in the hold of which the kegs and boxes and bales of merchandise are loosely stowed away. As the ship rolls and pitches, the bundles in the hold roll over each other, to the great danger of making the ship turn turtle. If the men are organized outside of the A.F. of L., the danger is no less. Free from the A.F. of L. bit and bridle, the organization may at any time respond to proletarian class demands, to the serious annoyance of the employer. In either of

the two cases the employer ever hurries to fetch in the assistance of the A.F. of L. When it “organizes” the shop, that is, when it plays the scab upon the men in the shop, that ship forthwith “steadies.” In the instance of the Pressed Steel Car Company a handle was unfortunately given by the men to facilitate the scabbery upon them by the A.F. of L.

As was shown last month in these columns the McKee’s Rocks men, who took so brilliant a stand for their class in their strike against the Pressed Steel Car Company, encountered a double misfortune. They first fell into the hands of that bird of ill omen, the pure and simple Socialist party politician, and no sooner had they shaken off that bird, when they fell into the hands of its mate, the pure and simple, tho’ veiled, dynamiters who are sailing in the stolen plumes of the I.W.W. True enough, capitalists call everyone who threatens their rule an Anarchist; that can be no reason why one should allow himself to be run by Anarchists. On the contrary. It is a reason why the soundly poised revolutionist should be all the more on the alert, and, by his every act, confute and refute the capitalists’ words, and convict them of foul calumny. The McKee’s Rocks strikers neglected this precaution. No Anarchists themselves, they allowed themselves to be run by the above named element, with which the Labor Movement has made a bitter experience, against which Marx and Engels struggled and warned, and in whose face the International Socialist Congresses have, for the last consecutive sixteen years, resolutely shut their doors. The oversight of the McKee’s Rocks men was promptly taken advantage of by Brother Capitalist to invite his Brother A.F. of L. to “organize” the Pressed Steel Car plant; and Brother A.F. of L., as announced by the *United Mine Workers Journal*, has readily availed itself of the rare opportunity under the pretext of “Down with Anarchy!”

There is, accordingly, nothing “remarkable{”} in the affair—to bolster up the capitalist class against the proletariat of the land is the daily occupation of the Civic Federationized A.F. of L.; to give a handle for the outraging of the proletariat is the practical, however unintentional, consequence of Anarchist activity.

Nothing remarkable, doubly unremarkable—however significant.

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