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EDITORIAL

GOMPERSISM, OR ORGANIZED SCABBERY, GETS ITS FACE SLAPPED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

The Police Board last Monday made the announcement of the official newspapers selected by it for the printing of the election advertisements.

The law provides that the Board shall select two newspapers for the long advertisement; one of these is to be a paper devoted to the political party polling the highest vote, the other is to be one devoted to the political party polling the next highest vote in the county. The practical effect of the provision is that one Democratic and one Republican paper are chosen.

As the Democratic paper, the Police Board chose the *Daily News*. There are other Democratic papers in this Borough, but the *Daily News* is and has been a consistent party paper. That it was chosen, and not the *Journal*, *World* or some such other is not out of the way.

What paper, however, did the Police Board, a Tammany body, choose as the Republican organ on which to bestow the coveted pap of printing the election advertisements?

There are in the city at least three papers that are to the Republican party what the *Daily News* is to the Democratic party. These are the *Tribune*, the *Press* and the *Mail and Express*. Did any of them get the pap? No. What paper got it?—*The Sun*!!

Despite its erratic course,—now Rep and then Dem, now Tammany and then pro-Platt—, the *Sun* carries off the pie and the cake. A Tammany Police Board passes over the heads of Republican papers of long standing and picks out the free lance, but now Republican, *Sun*.

There is in this act something of deep significance.

The city is at this very season being deluged by a circular issued by the “Organized Scabbery” that is duping the “Unorganized Labor” or rank and file of Typographical Union 6. The circular is one of those old-type and typical products of that ulcerous scab crew,—the Labor Fakir. It was discussed in full in our issue of

Sunday, September 23, under the head of “Typographical Union No. 6, or Unorganized Labor and Organized Scabbery.” The circular set its foot into its own mouth by seeking political redress for an economic wrong; and it branded itself a scab production by a virtual declaration in favor of the labor-fleeing Democratic party, in punishment of the Republican party for its unswerving patronage of the *New York Sun*. And, now, what do we see? A Democratic party Board snubs Republican papers, and picks out that very *Sun* to bestow its favor upon!!

The sight of the Democratic labor-fleeing capitalists thus making common cause with their Republican cousins, and thus slapping the other cheek of the “Organized Scabbery” of Typographical Union No. 6 is certainly edifying. It is edifying to perceive the evidence that the capitalists have, at last, sized up their quondam lackey, the Labor Fakir; that they begin to despise him; that they treat him like a willing strumpet, whose filthy favors are spurned, and who is kicked out of doors. The plight of these Labor Fakirs—place men, secret Committeemen, and labor cheaters generally—is a moral and intellectual treat. It marks progress. It marks a clearing away of rubbish that portends the approach of the day when the conflict between the Capitalist Class and the Working Class will be conducted along clean cut lines.

What with unterrified, uncompromising Socialist teaching and tactics, on the one hand, and the inevitable capitalist object lessons, on the other, the rank and file, the present “Unorganized Labor” in the pure and simple Trades Union bodies, is bound soon to be emancipated from the thrall of the despicable “Organized Scabbery,” that now dupes them and that forces them into disgraceful attitudes.

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