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EDITORIAL

MITCHELLISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THERE is a certain type of conduct familiar to all workingmen. It is the conduct of the fellow who toadies to the boss, who seeks, by some servile act, to curry favor with him, who sometimes carries tales and always hangs around, expecting some recognition from his employer. Among his fellow workmen this fellow is looked upon with scorn. He is called “lackey,” “sucker,” “boss’s man,” and other contemptuous names.

Every tendency that finds expression in the private acts of men, has its reflex in the public conduct of some social element. So it is with this pandering to the boss. The tendency whose expression in the shop has become so generally and so contemptuously known as the act of a “sucker,” of a “boss’s man,”—this same servile instinct finds expression, even more brazen, in the conduct of some organizations and leaders of labor.

The lines of conduct of the “boss’s man” are paralleled perfectly by the conduct of John Mitchell, who is now in Denver “to effect a peaceful settlement” of the differences between the coal mine operators and employes of Wyoming.

Fulsome is the praise bestowed upon Mitchell by the capitalist press—as fulsome as the boss’s mock praises of the “boss’s man.” The *Rocky Mountain News*, concluding its praises of Mitchell, says: “He is prominent in the Civic Federation, his counsels are always for peace and arbitration.” In its interview, *The News* quotes Mitchell as saying: “In our organization we have strikes when they are unavoidable, but not otherwise.” Quoting *The News* further: “The mine owners openly state and the workingmen are inclined to admit that there is not much chance for the eight-hour day being put in force.” “Mitchell said it looked to him as if there was every chance for a peaceful settlement.” Mitchell emphasized this tendency to maintain peace at labor’s expense by speaking disparagingly of that

splendid struggle of the Western Federation of Miners against the Colorado mine owners. Mitchell said: "In Colorado there has been no betterment since the recent protracted troubles, except in the lignite fields. There has been a decided improvement in the Louisville lignite field, but THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE OWNERS." And again quoting: "The mine owners had an informal banquet at the Brown Palace Hotel and John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, was present for half an hour."

Let the workers but get as correct a grasp of the larger relations of the general labor movement as they have of the relations existing in the narrower confines of their respective shops, and they will not only loathe the Mitchells as they now loathe the "boss's man," but they will see and repudiate Mitchellism wherever it shows itself.

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