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EDITORIAL

THERE'S HOPE FOR THE A.F. OF L.

By DANIEL DE LEON

HE A.F. of L. organizations located in New York are giving tangible evidence of there being hope for the A.F. of L.

The pronouncement of their General Committee is that "capital has its rights equally with labor." The sentiment sounds like unadulterated nonsense. He who says "Capital" says, whether he is aware of the fact or not, "Vampire upon Labor." To declare "Capital" and "Labor"—the Vampire and the Vampired—entitled to equal rights sounds like unredeemable absurdity. If the General Committee of the said A.F. of L. organizations had stopped there, then, it and they, along with their pronouncement, might be summarily dismissed as the recrudescence of Twaddle. But the aforementioned General Committee did not stop there. It proceeded to announce its conviction of the necessity for a strong Labor Party. And what did it do, then? Giving, with marked contempt, a wide berth to the Socialist party, which has all along acted as a rounder for the self same A.F. of L. bodies, their General Committee set up its own political expression, the Federated Labor party.

There always is hope for him who, however false his premises, reasons logically from them. Logical reasoning is bound eventually to discover the falsity of false premises. The New York A.F. of L. bodies that set up their own political party proved themselves too clear sighted to fall into the trap of the S.P. Let these bodies continue to exercise the same amount of logic and the day is bound to come when they and the S.L.P. will merge.

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