

EDITORIAL

NAUGHT'S LOST IF WISDOM'S GAINED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“IF Bryan wins this factory will shut-down after election.”
This was the statement that, from most capitalist establishments, reached the wage slave's a few days before election. It reached them in a score of ways, directly and indirectly

The consequence was seen on election day. Rather than run the risk of losing their jobs, the proletariat voted almost solidly for Taft.

This fact repeats a mighty lesson—the lesson preached for over ten years by the Socialist Labor Party.

So long as the capitalist class has it in its power to threaten the proletariat with a general shut-down on the day after election, just so long will the upper capitalist bag the “Labor vote.”

The proletariat virtually lives from hand to mouth. A threatened shut-down spells immediate starvation to the masses. Between election day and the inauguration of the newly elected political Government four months elapse. In that interval the proletariat, however victorious politically, remains in the power of the capitalist class, with hunger, riot and massacre for their lot. Instinct will guard the working class from such a suicidal act, as voting for the Revolution, so long as the threatened shut-down can be carried out.

Only one thing can neutralize the threat of a shut-down—integrally organized revolutionary Unionism. Organized in such an economic body, the threat of a shut-down loses its force. Of what avail would it be to the capitalist to make the threat to men who are organized to assume the reins of Government themselves? It would only weld them more closely together: it would only be additional proof to them of the soundness of their program—the abolition of the capitalist class.

So long as the shut-down threat is made it furnishes proof that the political

agitation of Socialism is defective or incomplete in that it has failed to put the civilized method of organizing a revolution—the political action—to its proper use, the use of furnishing a shield behind which the requisite physical force can be drilled for the overthrow of capitalism.

Correctly did the S.L.P. and the I.W.W. assert at the Stuttgart International Congress the necessity of the close connection of the political with the economic organization. Without the political, the day of social emancipation is unattainable; without the economic the day of political triumph would be the day of Socialist defeat—the capitalist class would be in organized possession of the national plant of production and able to shut down upon the Revolution.

The solidity of the Labor vote for Taft illustrates the lesson. If it teaches wisdom, then naught is lost and triumph is at hand

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

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