

EDITORIAL

THE EXPRESSMEN'S STRIKE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

HOWEVER strenuous the days of a strike are they afford opportunities for thought that days of work deny. It is in this respect somewhat the same as happened, according to Marx, at several strikes in England during which the babes, necessarily neglected by their mothers when these had to go to work in the shop, blossomed like the rose when mothers, being on strike, could keep their babes in their arms.

The present expressmen on strike have leisure to consider—

1. The Democratic party. It is symbolized by its gubernatorial candidate. The gentleman sets himself up as a typical type of the benevolent employer. And so he is. The employer who is not benevolent is not wise. He works his workers brutally. The net result of this is smaller returns for himself. The wise, because benevolent, employer gets out of his men more wealth relatively and absolutely. That's what Dix does. He raises his men's wages about 2 per cent upon the express condition of harder work. The harder work brought in an increase of 15 per cent of wealth to Dix. When the balance-sheet was struck off matters stood this wise:

Dix—gave out 2 per cent more; took in 15 per cent more; net INCREASE of plunder 13 per cent.

Employes—took in 2 per cent more; had to expend in life tissue during work 5 per cent more than before; net LOSS 3 per cent in vital forces, equivalent to 3 per cent nearer the grave.

2. The Republican party. It is symbolized by its boss-leader Roosevelt. When Haywood was kidnapped by the Governor of Idaho with the assistance of the Governor of Colorado, on account of Haywood's activity in setting up Unions that are Unions and not the buffers for capitalism that the contract-making and mutually scabbing A.F. of L. concerns are, Roosevelt, then President, pronounced

Haywood “an undesirable citizen.” The desirable citizens that the Roosevelt ticket stands for are the citizens who would reduce the workingmen to the level of dumb beasts of burden.

3. The so-called Socialist party. That party keeps true to its record—a scab party. Only this very year its Philadelphia organ, the *Tageblatt*, took money for articles of the Traction Company stabbing the trolley strikers in the back; and one of its New York organs reached out its hand for the same bribe by reproducing the article of the *Tageblatt* which applauded the Brewery workers for scabbing upon the strikers by remaining at work instead of joining the general strike which they themselves had voted for.

4. There remains the Socialist Labor Party. It also is: true to its record. Undeterred by the volumes of calumnies raised against it by the politically and economically organized scabbery, the S.L.P. has stuck to its colors, conscious of ultimate triumph, seeing that its triumph means the triumph of the Working Class. It is the one party that does not blow hot and cold on Unionism or on Politics. It is the one party that does not raise dust on either subject. It urges the workers to organize Unions that are Unions, and not buffers of capitalism; it urges the workers to conduct their campaign upon the civilized method of political action; it urges the workers, accordingly, to drill themselves for the Social Revolution—and to give a wide berth to the gentry whose actual motto is: “Socialism? Yes; when it comes; but that’s a long way off; in the meantime our nests need feathering.”

The expressmen on strike should improve the leisure they now enjoy to take in large stores of information by which to guide their immediate and future conduct.

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