

EDITORIAL

## SECTION NEW YORK, S.L.P., ON TWO STRIKES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE resolution adopted, and action taken, by Section New York, Socialist Labor Party, at its regular session of February 16, regarding the strike of the textile operatives of Lawrence, Mass., and Paterson, N.J., although published elsewhere in this issue in the official report of the Section's meeting, deserves reproduction at this place:

“Resolved, That Section New York congratulates the textile operatives on strike in Lawrence upon the dignified and manly stand they have taken, looking to the unification of the working class upon the political as well as the industrial field for the overthrow of the capitalist system; and be it further

“Resolved, That we recommend to all party members and friends to shut their eyes to the fact both Ettor and Thompson, now prominent in the leadership of the Lawrence strike, tried to sandbag the I.W.W. weavers now on strike in Paterson against the four-loom system, and that associates in Paterson of the said Thompson and Ettor even volunteered correspondence to the capitalist press intended to injure the I.W.W. men on strike with slander of their leader. We ask the party members and friends to overlook this offence by not allowing it to work to the injury of the Lawrence textile operatives on strike, and, to the best of their ability, and in all manner possible, assist the working people on the firing line in Lawrence as in Paterson; and

“Resolved, That Section ‘New York appropriate the sum of \$50, of which \$25 shall be donated to the striking Lawrence operatives, and \$25 to the striking Paterson: I.W.W. weavers.”

A test of the seriousness and mental integrity of men engaged in a serious movement is that never will they sacrifice the Cause to personal considerations.

When, in 1908, the S.L.P. nominated as its candidate for President Morrie Preston, then and still in prison for upholding a principle vital to the Labor Movement,

the principle of the legitimacy of picket duty, hence the right of self-defence, petty minds in the Labor and Socialist Movement allowed their personal rancor towards the S.L.P. to sway them, and, to the injury of the Cause, even of victimized Preston himself, denounced and sneered at the S.L.P. act.

Likewise two months ago when the I.W.W. weavers of Doherty in Paterson went on strike against the four-loom encroachment, which makes directly and with increased intensiveness against the health of female as well as male proletarians, ignoble souls in Paterson, who affect devotion to Labor's Cause and pretend contempt for the "capitalistic ballot," were so wholly carried away by personal enmity that they rushed to the capitalist press with slanderous communications against the leader of the proletarians on strike, and thus sought to fire, from the columns of the capitalist press, into the back of proletarians on the firing line for proletarian demands. And the atrocity was not only left unrebuked; it was followed up by public meetings held in Paterson by Ettor and Thompson, in which, with language often unprintable, the attempt, however vain, was made to derail the Paterson I.W.W. strike.

In marked contrast with such misconduct is the deportment of the S.L.P.

Despite the S.L.P.'s objections to Ettor, when last winter he and his associates assumed the leadership of the shoemakers' strike in Brooklyn against the double thrall of the employer and his A.F. of L. labor-lieutenants, and conducted the strike upon the civilized plane that becomes the dignity of the Labor Movement, the S.L.P. suppressed its opinions of the man and stood by him and the strike to the end. Likewise now and signally Section New York. All advises from Lawrence, through private communications and the Lawrence press, combine to justify the conclusion that the only manifestations of Anarchy are proceeding from the American Woolen Company and its agencies, civil, military and political. The Lawrence *Sun*" of February 15, surely no friend of the strikers, reporting the examination of Ettor and Giovannetti, who are held for the recent riot and the death that the riot caused, states that Gilbert Smith, the secretary of the Strike Committee, manfully testified that his organization stood for "the abolition of the wage system"; as manfully proclaimed that his organization "contemplated the transfer of the mill property from the so-called capitalists to the textile workers"; and, with the sanity and mental

cleanliness that comes from the experience of the Labor Movement, turning his back to the slummery of Anarchy, and the Anarchy of slummery, planted himself upon “the instrumentality of the Legislature.” Under such circumstances, it matters not what prominence the Ettors and Thompsons may enjoy in the strike. As Section New York, S.L.P., correctly concluded, the Lawrence strike “looks to the unification of the working class upon the political as well as the industrial field,” and that, as such, it deserves enthusiastic support, as well as the strike in Paterson.

The Ideal of the Socialist or Labor Movement is the Emancipation of the Working Class. Ever true to that Ideal the Socialist Labor Party looks neither to the right nor to the left; it is affected by no other consideration; it is ever found whither that Ideal leads.

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