

Daniel De Leon

Editorial: Workingmen, Attention!

The very latest and most valuable contribution towards the solution of the Labor Question comes from Division Superintendent Bennett of the Pennsylvania Railroad, with headquarters at Logansport, Ind. He said last week: "Our road was never in better condition to meet a strike", and then he proceeded to explain:

"YOU TAKE A SILVER DOLLAR AND LAY IT ON A SHELF FOR A YEAR AND YOU STILL HAVE A SILVER DOLLAR. BUT YOU LAY A MAN ON A SHELF FOR A YEAR AND HE BECOMES A SKELETON. THAT IS THE SOLUTION OF THE CAPITAL AND LABOR PROBLEM."

This sort of language may seem harsh, and yet it will prevent more suffering than the bushels of mock philanthropy that capitalism usually indulges in. The twaddle about the twinship of Capital and Labor, about the love the former entertains for the latter, and above all about the chances Labor has to rise up to the sphere of capitalism, can only serve to confuse and befog the public mind, to obscure the issue, thereby to prolong the agony, and, consequently, to pile up the sufferings of the working class. Many a workingman is misled thereby, and is induced to try this, and that, and the other palliative, in the belief that he is the brother of capital.

On the other hand, the plain, frank, straightout, though brutal, recognition of the fact that the programme of capital is to lay off the workman, starve him into submission, and then

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subjugate him, clears all cobwebs from the field. The blindest can see; the dullest can take his choice; nor can there be any doubt as to the choice.

The only solution Capital has in store for the Labor Question is the final overthrow of freedom. Socialism has steadily made this declaration and proved it, in the teeth of the clouds of dust raised by both fools and knaves, who would conceal the fact. Division Superintendent Bennett deserves credit for the clearness of his vision, and the outspokenness of his attitude.

The tender handed surgeon makes malodorous wounds.

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*A De Leon editorial transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the
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