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EDITORIAL

FULFILLING THEIR MISSION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

TO disbelievers in the Socialist principle that there is a law that governs the conduct of classes, and which these act obedient to, just as bees when they build their cells, the significance of the wage reductions decided upon by the trunk lines of New England will be lost. They will not be wasted upon those who watch events from the coign of vantage furnished by Socialist science.

Labor solidarity is a prerequisite for capitalist overthrow. So long as Labor is divided, capitalism is safe. Instinctively the capitalist class is aware of this. They are so well aware of it that they “work” with zeal in the effort to cultivate creed, race and national animosities; they are so well aware of it that, stingy though they are, they keep hired men in Labor’s ranks to scatter about suspicions against whomsoever threatens to enlighten the workers; they are so well aware of it that they coddle and fondle craft union superstitions of superiority of craft over craft. The necessity of keeping Labor divided is no secret to the capitalist mind. Yet, such is the power of the evolutionary law, obedient to which the capitalist must act that, despite all his knowledge concerning the necessity of preventing the unification of the working class, he can not choose but do the very things that tend to promote unification.

Craft superstition is rooted in the conceit of superiority that craftsmen in one craft have towards others in the same craft. The mischief starts there. The conceit of superiority that an engineer, for instance, is inflated with towards another engineer, for instance, whose wages are lower, is the root from which shoots the conceit of engineers towards brakemen, presently of railroaders towards hatters, of hatters towards hodcarriers, etc. A striking illustration of craft superstition and conceit was recently furnished by Haywood and the other officials of the Western Federation of Miners, who pronounced their particular craft “the stepping stone to

civilization,” and upon the strength of that arrogated to themselves the right of chairmanship to call the other crafts to order. In short, the craft spirit is a bulwark of capitalist rule because that spirit is a disrupter of Labor, hence craftism is essential to capitalism, and, consequently, the keeping up of “high” wages with some men in a craft is in the nature of the breath in the capitalist nostrils. This notwithstanding, the New England trunk lines have decided upon a cut in the salaries of all employes “who receive more than \$100 a month.” In other words, the companies have started to level down the “high” salaried men, and bring them nearer to the “lower fry.” The only practical effect of the move will be to undermine craft conceit. Bring down the craft conceit of one man in a craft, and inevitably the craft conceit of craft towards craft in the orchestra of Labor is undermined.

Long ago did Marx say that, not until all the revolutionary forces are knocked down and lie flat, the one beside the other, will they gather the revolutionary strength for the accomplishment of their mission—the overthrow of capitalism. The work of “knocking down” can be performed only by the capitalist class—and the capitalist class is bound to do so. It has hardly any other mission left in the scheme of society—it is fulfilling that last and not least important task that devolves upon it.

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

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slpns@slp.org