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THE STRIKE

By Daniel De Leon

Events at Homestead are following their inevitable course, and capitalism, sustained by all the powers of the State, is resuming the aggressive with a vengeance.

Men who, yesterday, were praised as heroes from one end of the country to the other, are to-day dragged before the courts as vile murderers.

The shadow of the hangman darkens the horizon.

The militia, that came “to protect the rights of *all*”, will remain under arms until Carnegie’s “rebellious” slaves are thoroughly “fricked” into submission.

The premature sympathy of boodle editors and boodle politicians for the victims of capitalistic greed, is giving way to the sober second thought that the right of capitalism to be greedy is unquestionable and must be maintained at all hazards.

To facilitate matters the Federal law is boldly violated, and the gates of the country are thrown wide open to contract laborers.

While Congress is conducting a sham investigation of the Pinkertons, these bandits are to be employed by the State of Pennsylvania as regular detectives and police officers at the public expense for the private benefit of coal barons and iron kings.

Democratic Governor and Republican President—the first, a few days ago, hesitating to interfere, the second imploring Frick to be magnanimous—are now of one mind. The militia of one is at Homestead, the army of the other is at Coeur d’Alene. Organized Labor must and shall be crushed.

And it will be crushed—surely, irretrievably—unless it rises in its might on election day.

Capital holds it by the throat in the economic field.

Capital holds it under the iron heel of the military on the first show of manly resistance.

In the political field only can Labor fight Capital and win.

United in the political field, the workingmen of Homestead elected their own burgess. United in the political field, the workingmen of this country can elect their own judges, their own legislators, their own Governors, their own President.

Divided in the political field, they will again elect Democratic and Republican lackeys of their bosses, who will further divide them in the economic field by breaking up all their organizations and using for that purpose all the political powers—legislative, judicial, executive, police and military.

Woe to the workingmen if the next election day should find them still divided in the economic field.

The army will be doubled.

The militia will be quadrupled.

The prisons will be enlarged.

The gallows will be in permanence.

Workingmen, unite! Save yourselves, save your posterity from the most abject slavery the world has yet seen. Your own fate, the fate of the country, the fate of humanity, is in your own hands.

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