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EDITORIAL

## THE OLD STORY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** GAIN a mining region—Raleigh County, W.Va.—has been drenched in the blood of workingmen. To judge by the victims (miners resisting a decline in wages) the conflict was one between the Capitalist Class and the Working Class. The circumstance that the blood-shedders were a posse of a Deputy United States Marshal and of the County Sheriff—armed representatives of the Capitalist Class—adds color to the appearance. And yet it is a delusion, a fatal delusion. Workingmen fought, workingmen bled. Nevertheless, the workingman contingent in the tragedy figured only as “food for cannon.” In this Raleigh County, W.Va., incident the workingman was, as usually, not fighting his own battle: he was fighting the battle of his masters: he was bleeding and laid down his life for those who ride him: he was fighting for CAPITALISM.

Capitalism means the private ownership of the natural and social opportunities (of the land and the machinery) without which man can not exercise his functions of worker; without which he can not produce the necessaries of life. He who says “Capitalism” says wage slavery for the Working Class. He who says “Capitalism,” accordingly, says: “Irreconcilable conflict between the Capitalist Class and the Working Class.”

To sum up, he who says “Capitalism,” either must say: “The Working Class must put an end to this conflict by abolishing Capitalism; and there is no way other than to vote out of power the political parties of the Capitalist Class”; or he must say: “The Capitalist Class must jolly the Working Class along and long enough with false hopes of establishing ‘harmonious relations’ between employer and employee, until the workers have been brought down to the coolie level of abjectness, and then the conflict is removed.” The latter language is held by the Capitalist Class. The policy there implied the Capitalist Class carries out with the aid of the labor-fakir.

Every strike by workingmen, who, officered by the Mitchell-Gompers pack, uphold the Capitalist parties in power, is an attempt at the impossibility of establishing 'harmonious relations' between the fleeced and the fleecers. Every such attempt is a battle fought for Capitalism. Without their knowing it, in each such battle the General in command of the workingmen, is their born and sworn foe,—CAPITALISM. That General in command ever manoeuvres them into upholding a social system, which produces consequences that they must rebel against. Thus he manoeuvres them into an attitude of utter contradiction, that must inevitably strangle them,—and that's what the Capitalist Class is after, and the labor-fakir is there to help in.

The blood of the striking miners of Raleigh County lies on the head of the Mitchells and the Gompers. It lies also on the head of that pack of imbeciles and traitors, who, decked with the stolen feathers of the Socialist Labor Party, call themselves "Socialist," alias Social Democratic party, boom the Mitchells as "champions of Labor" and pronounce their infamous manoeuvres "a noble waging of the class struggle."

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