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EDITORIAL

A CRUSHING FACT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MR. Peter Wynne, President of the New York branch of the National Association of Post Office Clerks, commenting upon the certain high-handed actions of those in authority against the Post Office employees, says:

“Well, some good may yet come of it, after all. This will open the eyes of the public to the arbitrary power the higher officials have over the status of the clerk.”

It is to be hoped the public will. What happened is this: Of the total of 7412 promotions allowed throughout the country, 3046 have been cancelled summarily. With the allegation that a “promotion syndicate” was operating in New York, as a pretext, the Post Master General, has ridden rough-shod over the law, and dropped names enough to materially reduce the taxes, that the tax-paying capitalist class would otherwise have to disgorge out of their plunder, for the increased salaries of the promoted Post Office clerks.

It is to be hoped the public will catch on, and, catching on, drop like a hot potato the notion, which the insidious lie about municipalization a la Glasgow, or capitalist government ownership, is seeking to inoculate the public mind with.

The Post Office is owned by the Government. Does not that make it property of the people and for the people? That depends upon who, in turn, owns the Government. Is the Government owned by the people, then the people own their Post Office: is the Government not owned by the people, then the people do not own their Post Office—or any other thing. How is the fact to be established as to whether the people own the Government or not? By the simple process of inquiring whether classes exist in the country or not. Where capitalism exists classes exist; capitalism without a wage slave class is an absurdity; where there is a slave class, the slave-holding class rules, and,

consequently owns the government, all appearances to the contrary notwithstanding. It follows, first, that the government is here not owned by the people, and, second, that **THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS GENUINE NATIONALIZATION IS THE OVERTHROW OF CAPITALISM.**

Long do people who wish a thing and do not look below the surface charge those who do, with being “theorizers.” But facts accumulate and thereby proofs. What has just happened to the employees of the Government-owned Post Office is one of these facts. It is to be hoped it may open the eyes of the public—of the P.O. boys among the lot.

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