

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 49.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

M. WITTE'S OPPORTUNITY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AT the identical time that the papers are publishing flaming accounts of and indulging in enthusiastic editorials upon the pilgrimage to Portsmouth of a bevy of millionaire Jews to remonstrate with the Russian plenipotentiary on the ill treatment of Jews by the Russian Government, the identical papers contain extensive reports of the strike of the "kosher" bread bakers on the East Side, here in New York, here in America, and jubilantly announce the way the "kosher" bread baker employers, Jews all of them, are getting the best of their hard-worked, ill-paid, pinched, in short, scourged Jewish employes. This should be M. Witte's opportunity.

In Russia the Jewish workingman is crucified: is incense burned to him in America? In Russia the Jewish working man is scourged by the knout of the Kossack: does the knout of hunger that is cracked by the ruthless employer over the back of the Jewish workingman in America sting less? In Russia the Jewish workingman is deprived by law of the opportunity for education and enlightenment: is the system of grinding exploitation to which the Jewish workingman is subjected in America, and which keeps his nose so close to the grindstone that he has neither physical nor mental strength left after a long day's or night's drudgery,—is that system a less effective bar to mental and spiritual expansion? Nor does the parallel at M. Witte's hand end there. In Russia the pretext of race antagonism is applied to add swing to the arm of the oppressor and edge to the weapon that he uses against the Jew: is the pretext of racial affection, employed by the Jewish employer in America to chloroform his Jewish employes while he sucks their blood, less fiendish a scheme? In Russia the guile of "religion" is turned into a whet stone for the butcher's knife of the Gentile ruler against the Jew: is the cobweb of "religion", spun before his establishment by the Jewish capitalist spider in America in order to

entangle the Jewish workingman fly and devour him,—is this process less cannibalic? The sufferings of KOSHER bread bakers at the hands of KOSHER bread baker bosses, the revelation of these sufferings, brought out at this time,—that certainly constitutes a windfall opportunity for M. Witte.

Many a time and oft does the hare escape the alertest hunter. M. Witte, however, must be the veriest tenderfoot bungler if he fails to bring down the hare that ran up his legs at Portsmouth when the set of “kosher” millionaire capitalists, the sublimation of the “kosher” baker bosses, presumed to remonstrate with him upon the outrages perpetrated by their class-kin, the feudal capitalist class of Russia, upon the Jews in the Empire of the Moscovite.

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Uploaded February 2008

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