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SECOND EDITORIAL

GLORY COMES DEAR TO THE WORKERS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

The proudest men who trod the earth last Monday were the men of the 69th New York Regiment. They arrived in the city from the South and were given an ovation. As they marched up Broadway, thick crowds lined the street cheering and hurraing, while the cannon on City Hall Square was kept booming a long salute. The men looked as if they were treading on enchanted ground: Ethan Allan's dashing boys of the Revolution, Leonidas' Spartan band could not have looked happier than did these men, inflated as they were with the outward trappings of glory. To-day all that has changed: no more despondent tramps prowl through the city than these same snorting warriors of two days ago,—all the more despondent as they feel cheated.

What is it that has happened?

The outward theory upon which these men enlisted was "self-sacrifice"; they were ready, to fight not only, but also to bleed for the freedom of humanity and the glory of the country. That was alright enough as a screen, a decent screen for the real facts. Out-of-work and with small chances of improvement, these men went to the front. The gold they were to receive was the real motive. But even the level-headed man who sees to his material comfort will not always refuse to spend something for show for his own glorification, provided that something be not too much. That is the way last Monday's parade was presented to the men of the 69th Regiment: in order to enjoy the glories of the parade they would have to be mustered out earlier, losing, of course, some pay. How much? They were told by their Colonel, a worthy named Duffy, that \$5 would be the most they could forfeit. That surely was not much: \$5 out of a prospective \$60 pay at mustering out was considered a cheap price for hurrahs, salvos of artillery and pageantry in which the payer is himself the chief attraction. The men consented; the parade took place and all that thereby hung; and the men were yesterday mustered out with only \$30 pay!

The pageantry of Monday cost these men dear. They now realize they were thoroughly duped. Their Colonel, the man Duffy, managed to make himself especially

the recipient of the biggest part of the ovation, and, instead of paying his share, he took that with a vengeance out of the hides of his “gallant soldier boys.” He is not to be mustered out; he loses not a cent; but the men have to pay the piper; the statement to them that they would lose only \$5 was a swindle to encourage them to decide for the parade. The real worker again has had to foot the bill.

In the midst of the embalmed meat and other swindles, this Duffy scandal comes opportunely. From start to finish, and every step the recent war was but a scheme for the intensified exploitation of the working class; it was conceived in swindle and carried out by swindle. So far from its having redounded to our national glory, it has only added an other blot to the many already thrown upon it by our ruling class, and all of which it will be the mission of the working class to wipe out.

[Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.](#)

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