

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 177.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## EIGHT LINKS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE New York *Tribune* of the 21st of this month admits that the demands of the trainmen employed on the eastern railroad lines for an increase of from 5 to 40 per cent. in wages “will not be received with dismay” by many of the roads; it explains why. Seeing that most of these roads are planning for a general advance in freight charges, they are only too anxious, says the *Tribune*, for an excuse, such as a demand for higher wages would furnish, to put their plan through.

This is rather frank language for a bourgeois paper to hold; and valuable is the light it throws upon some of the links in the chain of events on the economic field. Although the links lighted by the *Tribune* are not many, yet do they suggest quite clearly the links that precede and the links that follow:—

First link—instructions issued by the capitalist Colonel to his Labor-lieutenant to cause the Union to demand a big increase in wages;

Second link—thrilling address, held by the Labor-lieutenant to the Union, touching upon the men’s hard work, poor pay and wretched conditions, and upon the advisability of a rise in wages whereby, due {to} the reciprocal relations between Labor and Capital, Labor, being better paid, will be able to produce so much more profits for the employer;

Third link—unanimous resolution passed by the Union for a 40 per cent. raise in wages;

Fourth link—announcement to the public by the capitalist employer that, whereas he does not believe in non-Union Labor; and whereas his Union Labor has demanded an increase of wages; and whereas his profits would be wholly swallowed up if he granted the increase without, in his turn, raising his charges; therefore the charges are raised proportionally;

Fifth link—second interview between the capitalist Colonel and his Labor

lieutenant, accompanied by the tune of a metallic klink;

Sixth link—second thrilling address, delivered by the Labor-lieutenant to the Union, touching upon the employer’s undying love for his men as a sure pledge that he will yield to the men’s demands so soon “as the condition of business will allow,” and urging the men to agree to a friendly settlement under which they agree to wait;

Seventh link—the Union members look perplexed, but a number of the Lieutenant’s Sub-lieutenant’s take a hand, and the settlement is agreed to and signed;

Eighth and last link of all, that ends this strange eventful chain—the capitalist Colonel and his Labor-lieutenant toast each other at a National Civic Federation banquet.

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Uploaded January 2011

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