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EDITORIAL

HAPPY STEEL EMPLOYES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ONE day the mischief-making labor-agitator is confuted with the information, published in jubilant news items under jubilant headlines, that the steel employes have been converted into capitalists by being made partners in the holding of stock.

Another day the above referred-to mischief-makers are knocked on the head with news items that thrill with patriotism and religion that the Steel Companies have adopted “a remarkably humane insurance policy” whereby the steel employes are to be protected financially against “loss of limbs, or impairment of health.” The mischief-makers wonder why should there be need of such insurance to men who have been made partners with the Carnegies, the Fricks, the Schwabs and the Jones & Laughlins. But the mischief-makers, being constitutional mischief-makers, keep their peace—and wait.

Now, another knock-out blow is administered to the mischief-makers. Here it is again, black upon white, and with a headline that keeps pace with the contents of the item. Clean in advance of Christmas, the season for “gifts” and “surprises,” the employes of the Jones & Laughlin plants are announced to be presented with higher wages, an increase of 1½ cents an hour.

What will the mischief-makers say now? Will they still deny the benevolent paternality of the employing class? Will they still sneer at the all-fired goodness of Capitalism? Will they still rant about exploitation?

Happy steel employes; partners of multimillionaires; protected financially against accidents; and with wages towering upward without the need of strike or boycott; on the road, with giant steps, towards the millennium—of Barmecide’s Promises!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org