

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 198.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1913.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

ANENT THE YONKERS STRIKE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FOR some time, not merely since the Yonkers trolley strike, but quite a number of years back, have we been wondering, How long will the “labor victory” of ordinances forbidding traction companies to run their cars with other than “home material” last? How long, or how short a space of time will it take capitalism to smash through the clumsy attempt to limit its supply of available labor by local ordinances, which, under a variety of shifts, seek to “bank” the accidental supply in the labor market, and artificially reduce the supply in the national market? In other words, How long will this Labor imitation of the petty bourgeois Chinese Wall scheme of “promoting local enterprise” prevail over the trend of the law of social motion?

The Yonkers trolley strike is bringing about the answer.

The trolley strike in Yonkers would have speedily gone the way of such strikes generally, were it not for the city ordinance which forbids the employing of “outside help.” As things stand, the ordinance prevented the flow of applicants for work into Yonkers; or, if the flow did take place, the ordinance prevented the contemplated scabbing more effectually than the Union did, or could. Having reached the end of their tether along that line, the Company enlisted the services of the Mayor of the town.

The problem was simple. Higher wages would eat into profits. The ordinance makes for higher wages. Revoke the ordinance? That would cause the political death of the present political incumbents. Is there, then, no way to keep up profits? Yes. Which? Simply get the city to buy the plant. The idea is in line with “revolution” as preached by the Socialist party. Indeed, the idea of buying out is rendered savory by S.P. propaganda. All gudgeons are taken in, and non-gudgeons promote the swindle. The plant, once bought by the city for a good round sum, the city will

see to it that “extravagant wages” be not paid. The “extravagant wages” would have to come from the pockets of the tax-payers. The real tax payers, the capitalists, would not allow such unpatriotic pranks as “extravagance”; and the supposed tax-payers, the working class not directly connected with joining the anti-extravagance crusade. Net results—the present stockholders would continue to draw their revenue; the “public” would keep wages down in the interest of low taxes; finally, the working class not directly connected with the service, would lend a hand.

It was agreed. The Mayor of Yonkers has gone to Albany with the draft of a bill to buy the railroad property for \$3,000,000.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded June 2014

slpns@slp.org