

EDITORIAL

THE PORTLAND HAPPENINGS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT has been said, No strike is ever lost. However seemingly crushed, whether through treachery, ignorance in Labor's camp, or through brutality in the political-economic camp of capital, so goes the saying, every strike marks a milestone forward.

In a way the saying is true. There is experience gathered. Everyone may not profit by it; some do, and thus the strike makes a notch on the staff of success.

Granting all that is sweepingly and indiscriminately claimed for these revolts of Labor, a distinction must be made. Strikes there are, and these unfortunately are the majority, where the success must be looked for with a microscope. Other strikes there are with which the success is obvious, immediate.

What is happening in Portland is of the latter nature.

It began with an ordinary strike, it spread into the field of civic rights, and the two streams met and became a political movement. There was no bluster; there was no wild-eyed language or gesture; there was no act that could discredit the cause of Socialism, or Progress, and thereby strengthen the cause of Reaction, or Capitalism. There was the exact opposite of all of these, with the consequence that the bluster, the wild-eyed language and gesture became the part of the agencies of Capitalism, and the further consequence that the acts of these redounded to the credit of Socialism and the discredit of Capitalism.

And what was the reason of this exceptional sequence of affairs? The Portland revolt was mainly conducted and inspired by Socialist Labor Party educational forces, in other words, by Socialism.

Today Portland is a better city than it was—better because it now contains a considerable number of proletarians whose minds have been attuned to the tune of

their own emancipation, instead of being attuned to the tune of pure and simple Unionism, or pure and simple politics—better because a perceptible number of its population now has received an education that it never before had the opportunity to receive—better because the foundation has been laid with the S.L.P. trowel.

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