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EDITORIAL

THE WATERBURY HIGH SCHOOL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THAT the Working Class is not represented on the benches of the educational institutions of the land, is a well known fact. Even in the primary classes, which are overcrowded with workingmen's children, only a small fraction of such children is found. As the grades ascend, the number of pupils declines. When, finally, the High School is reached, there is hardly any of this element left. The reason is obvious,—the poverty of the workingman. Accordingly, the blessings of High School education are not for the workingmen. Whatever wisdom is there taught, does not reach them. This is the rule. As all rules, this one has its exception. The exception—and a striking one it is—is furnished, is just now being furnished, by the High School of Waterbury, Ct.

In the course of the struggle of the classes, that is continuous and universal, and that has the town of Waterbury, as it has all other spots of the land, for a field of battle between the idle and plundering Capitalist Class, on the one hand, and the toiling and plundered Working Class, on the other, an acute stage has been reached in that town between the street railway employees and their employers. Such acute stages are called strikes. In other words, a strike is on in Waterbury. Forthwith the militia is sent down into the city; and, seeing the car-depot was too small to accommodate the "soldier boys," they are quartered in the High School. From a professor's desk, so to speak, Major-General Russell Frost, in command, at his High School headquarters, sends out these words:

As for shooting, if it comes to that, we won't use any blank cartridges. We will use ball cartridges. We mean business. If we must shoot we won't fire low nor high; we will shoot to hit.

With one bound the Waterbury High School leaps to University dignity. On the

wings of the telegraph and telephone, and re-echoed through the myriads of columns of the press, its teachings have taken the right of way over the teachings of any and all schools, high and low, and Universities to boot, of the land. The learning that, hitherto was circumscribed to the four walls of the building, now has no bounds short of the nation's bounds; and the beneficiaries thereof no longer are the children of the well-to-do, but are children and, above all, the parents themselves of the Working Class. On the Waterbury High School grounds the gist of all politics and economics has been made palpable. What abstract teachers talk about, when they discuss the "Class Struggle" pro and con; what abstract theorickers talk about when they analyze political parties; what more practical professors seek to demonstrate by connecting "acts" with "principles,"—all that Prof. Major-General Russell Frost summarizes in five short sentences, and, with the walls of the Waterbury High School as a resounding board, the summary is made to reach the eyes and ears of every workingman in the land,—to wit:

“Right without Might is suicide. The Working Class, with Right on its side, but commits suicide when it places Might in its adversary's hands. The issue between Labor and Capital cannot be settled unless Labor joins Might to its Right. With 100 votes for the Right to every 1 vote for the Capitalist Wrong, Labor but commits suicide when it casts its 100 votes for the political parties of Wrong and thus gives Wrong the benefit of Right. So long as this is done Labor has 'no kick coming.'”

So sayeth the Waterbury High School.
Well for the Waterbury High School!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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