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EDITORIAL

## ECHOES LAWRENCIAN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A**S proof, supposed conclusive, of Edison being in error, when he predicts that “no such thing as poverty will exist in a hundred years,” the Salem, Mass., *Evening News* of the 30th, obviously squinting at the anti-poverty cry that is going up from Lawrence, quotes Scripture to the effect: “For the poor always ye have with you.”

Whereupon, as proof, actually conclusive, Shakespeare must be quoted upon the pietistic Salem Editor—

“In religion,  
What damned error, but some sober brow  
Will bless it, and approve it with a text,  
Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?”<sup>1</sup>

\* \* \*

A dollar to a doughnut, the one hundred employes of the Bay State Street Railway Company—that is, the carpenters, painters, and helpers—who were dismissed because of the heavy losses suffered by the Company on account of the textile strike, never imagined that their trade had any affinity with weaving. A dollar to a doughnut, these workingmen are now doing some thinking. Capitalism may be relied upon to furnish the object lessons needed to enlighten the working class on the soundness of the “wild-eyed Socialist theories.”

As the working class is ONE so is industry ONE. That which touches one touches all.

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Humor is inseparable from drama. The drama of the Lawrence textile operatives strike is no exception.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Merchant of Venice.—R.B.]

On last January 26, a mass meeting, held at Faneuil Hall in Boston in behalf of the Lawrence mill owners-ridden and militia-trampled-on strikers, was addressed by Joseph J. Ettor of the Strike Committee and James F. Carey of the Haverhill Socialist party, the latter of whom is the gent who voted \$15,000 towards the building of the Armory in Haverhill from which the identical brutally cynic militia, now holding Lawrence in terror, marched to “keep order” in Lawrence.

There are humors that are grim.

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Another textile stock-holders’ county heard from. This time it is the Salem stock-holders’ county. The charge that goes out from Lawrence that its toilers are made “to grub along on a scant pay” is met by the Salem *Evening News* with the “plea of confession and avoidance” that, if such a state of things “be an indictment of labor conditions in Lawrence, then by the same token, every industrial community in the State of Massachusetts must likewise be answerable.” In other words labor conditions in Lawrence are horrible, but, being equally horrible in all other Massachusetts industrial communities, the thing to do is not to condemn the evil conditions, but to condone them.

From similar premises, unto similar conclusions, did the New York Grand Jury of 1906 travel when it declared that, were it to indict the insurance magnates for fraud, then all the directors of all the other financial institutions of the State would likewise have to be indicted.

Will the pious Editor of the Salem *Evening News* inform an anxious public with what text he will bless the reasoning and approve it?

\* \* \*

The circular which was sent out by William E. Trautmann of the Chicago I.W.W. against the move of the A.F. of L. to disrupt the strike of the textile operatives, hit bull’s-eye in the passage in which A.F. of L. doctrine is charged with leading “to the pernicious use of brutal force, of the blowing up of buildings and destruction of human life by bombs and dynamite, as proven only recently by passing events.”

True.

Pure and simple economic organization is a denial, expressed or implied, of political action as a necessary aid, shield and other protection and support of a class-

conscious labor organization. As such the pure and simple economic organization is a breeder of theft, and all manner of crime—all of which are fatal to the emancipation of Labor.

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Lawrence and other Massachusetts exchanges report that Senator James A. Hatton of Charlestown and Representative Michael Brophy of East Boston made, at the hearing to investigate the 'longshoremen strike, the charge that "men who are on strike in Lawrence are becoming strike-breakers in Charlestown."

It is to be hoped that the charge is false. It would be passing droll if, while the Lawrence Strike Committee is justly calling for aid upon the wage earners of the land against their capitalist masters in Lawrence, their own men on strike are going over to the capitalist masters in Charlestown.

The best of Strike Committees can not be held responsible for the betrayal of Labor's cause, committed by individuals among their own strikers whose mind is dominated by the false and immoral teachings of the capitalist class and that class's labor lieutenants.

It is the duty of the Lawrence Strike Committee promptly to disprove the charge; or, if the charge be found true, as promptly to admit it, and to disown and condemn the wrongdoers.

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Inexplicable is the disinclination that the Senate of Massachusetts showed at first to the appointment of an Investigation Committee of the Lawrence strike. The disinclination is all the more inexplicable seeing that the Committee was to have "NO power to investigate and hear both sides, or send for persons and papers."

An investigating committee with no power to investigate is so obvious a junketing affair, like the periodical trips to Panama of President Roosevelt, and then President Taft, and other such experts in engineering, that one should think the Legislators would have snapped at it with avidity, like a hen at a bug.

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