

EDITORIAL

WELL FOR THE LAWRENCE STRIKERS!

By DANIEL DE LEON

MR. JOHN GOLDEN, International President of the United Textile Workers of America, affiliated with the A.F. of L., in a letter “expressly written for {the} *Sunday American*, and published in that paper’s Lawrence issue of January 21, states of the organization of the Lawrence textile operatives that the same “is not a trade union.”

The opinion is given with “authority.” It is a sort of “decision handed down” by a Justice of the Supreme Court.

For once Mr. Golden speaketh the truth.

Not “trades unionism” merely, “unionism” in general, are terms with a special, a peculiar meaning in the Goldenistic mind. Furthermore, in justice to the Goldenoid mind, the meaning of the terms is one that habits of thought have hardened.

To the Goldenarian mind the Union’s only mission is to pad the yoke of capitalism upon the neck of the worker. Starting from such premises and aiming at such a goal, it is inevitable that the Union be managed by a labor-leader, a lieutenant of the employer. The sequel follows like night follows day. Gradually the labor-lieutenant’s interests identify him with the employer who is his colonel. In the hands of the colonel’s lieutenant the Union assumes the features of mercenaries whose captain hires them to contending armies. Who ever heard of mercenaries wanting the earth? Occasionally they would mutiny for more pork and brandy, but claim the earth—never!

No more may, or does Unionism, in the Goldenoid sense.

An organization of workingmen who start from the premises that their wage (the mercenary’s sold) is only a small part of what is theirs by right; and that, by right, they should increase upon the same until, by right, they shall have it all—such an organization, such Unionism, such a Trades Union, is to the Goldenaid

brain as absurd, as unpatriotic, as ungodly a thing as the idea of the sovereign rights of the people is an absurd, an unpatriotic, an ungodly piece of impudence to the lackey of a three-tailed bashaw.

Animated by the identical breath that breathed into the people the breath of the sense of sovereignty, a breath under which three-tailed bashawships have toppled down, and, as a consequence, lackeys have been sent kiting, the textile operatives of Lawrence took their stand, framed themselves into a fighting body, and made their demands. Any wonder that every feather on the back of the Goldenal hen should flutter, startled? None whatever.

From the premises of Goldenesis, the Lawrence textile operatives act in manner and style utterly un-Unionistic. 'Tis true. For that very reason the Lawrence textile operatives deserve applause. They have switched themselves at last on the tracks that lead to Unionism—bona fide Unionism—the organization that, compelling the unity of the workers upon the political as well as the industrial field, will restore to Labor the full fruits of its toil, cause capitalists and their lackeys, the Presidents Wood of American Woollen Companies, together with their International Presidents Golden of the A.F. of L., to scoot as the “nobility” of France did, together with their menials, before the bracing breath of the French Revolution.

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