

EDITORIAL

SUPERFLUOUS REMINDERS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A THICK pasteboard placard, headed "Notice!" is issued by the Passaic, N.J., Worsted Mills, urging the Company's employes, who are striking under the I.W.W. to "remember" certain things.

The first "Remember" is to the effect "that the Company has given continual employment to a large number of its employes, who have become aged and less able to render the service that new and younger help can do!"

No need of reminding the aged employes of the fact that, so miserable were the wages paid to them for the fabulous wealth they were creating that, after a life of toil, they have nothing laid by for the day when they are "less able to render the services" of their younger days, and when, wholly unable to render any further services, their prospect will be that of squeezed-out lemons cast on the refuse heap. No need of reminding them of that; nor, indirectly, the younger hands of the lot that the Company's present wages have in store for themselves. The spectacle of the plight of the older hands is a monumental, a living reminder to the younger.

The second "Remember" is to the effect that the Company gives an "annual distribution of Christmas gratuities in accordance with the prosperity of the yearly business, and which you will jeopardize by joining in the new movement."

No need of reminding the employes of the fact that, so scandalously low are their earnings, when Christmas has come around they have had to depend upon the charity of those whom they enriched in order somewhat to gladden there homes at Yuletide.

No need of these "Remembers." The fact that the employes of the Botany Worsted Mills have struck for higher wages is ample evidence that they "remember" but too well; and that the remembrance has not evaporated in mists. It is ample proof of the fact that the remembrance on the part of the employes of the Botany Worsted

Mills has crystallized into shape so that the horrors of their present existence may be mitigated, for the present, and may be ultimately abolished—when the day shall be that old age shall not be destitute, but shall enjoy the comforts and dignity of repose that its toil of younger days entitled it to; and that its Christmas candles shall emit a brighter light than fitful and sickly flickerings of “Charity.”

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