

---

# Truth

by Eugene V. Debs

Unsigned editorial in *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*, vol. 8, no. 8 (Aug. 1884), pg. 471.

It is always better to tell the truth than a falsehood. No matter what the circumstances may be, candid and truthful statement of the facts will always prove beneficial in the end.

We cannot afford to indulge in misrepresentation, for, sooner or later, the fact comes to light and then even the truth will awaken doubt and suspicion. We must be absolutely honest. We must represent our aims and purposes fairly and we must practice what we preach. It will not do for us to declare war on drunkenness simply for effect. If we establish law in opposition to intemperance and fail to enforce them, we are guilty of misrepresentation. We must not pretend to be what we are not. If our principles are good, and we believe they are, we should strictly adhere to them. Every member should be the embodiment of our teachings.

As applied to our relations with our employers, the matter of being truthful is a very important one. They will respect us in proportion as we deal honestly with them. It sometimes occurs that engineers and firemen get into trouble on the road, through negligence, or a similar cause, and in order to avert the blame they misrepresent the facts to their master mechanic or superintendent. In other words, they indulge in falsehood to screen their guilt. This policy will not do. As a general thing, the truth eventually comes to the surface and he who told the lie can never hope to be trusted again. It is certainly better to tell the truth and manfully bear the consequences. No matter what the result may be, we will at least preserve our honor and manhood.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR · March 2017 · Non-commercial reproduction permitted.  
First Edition.