

DAILY PEOPLE



VOL. 9, NO. 329.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

TWO STRIKES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN France, with Paris as the center thereof, the Post Office employes declared a strike a week ago—the strike was “lost.”

In Georgia, with Atlanta as the center thereof, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has just declared a strike—ten to one, the strike will be “won.”

So will things look to the superficial observer. Fact is, the strike pronounced to be “lost” is the one that won; the strike that will be pronounced “won” being the one lost.

Each of the two strikes embodied a principle—

The Parisian strike embodied the principle: “The Chamber must be swept away and in its place set up an Assembly of Unions made up of Union representatives.”

The Georgia strike embodied the principle: “Negro labor has no business to be mixed with White Labor.”

The Parisian principle is the principle which proceeds from the solidarity of Labor; which seeks to bring the workers into one organic body—all supporting each, each supporting all.

The Georgia principle is the principle which proceeds from the craft Union theory that dislocates the working class into as many fragments as there are crafts, and re-dislocates these into as many sub-fragments as there are colors and races.

The Parisian principle is a principle that abhors the law of capitalist existence—abhors it because it is a law that makes for the interests of the small ruling class against the interests of the vast ruled class—abhors it because it is the law of reaction, the law that keeps society in perpetual war, the law of barbarism.

The Georgia principle is a principle that hugs the law of capitalist existence closely to its heart, and thereby turns the workers who hug it into caricatures of

capitalists—imitators of that which is to their own harm and to the benefit of their oppressors only.

The Parisian principle, accordingly, whatever defeats it encounters, is bound to unify the workers: whatever rebuffs it may meet with is bound to triumph.

The Georgia principle, on the contrary, whatever victories it scores can only tend to dislocate Labor more completely, render it more helpless, and, as a consequence, can only illustrate the principle's worthlessness.

The triumphs of Error are events that dig its own grave; the defeats of Truth are events that invigorate its fibre. Error travels in a procession of triumphs to final downfall; Truth travels in a procession of defeats to final victory.

Whatever may hap in Georgia—that strike is lost.

Whatever happened in Paris—that strike was won.

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

Uploaded August 2010

slpns@slp.org