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EDITORIAL

WHERE THE FIGHT IS ON.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHATEVER else in to-day's news items the reader may not have time to read, he should by all means devote full time to the article from Paterson published elsewhere in this issue, "Paterson Strike Facts."

Last winter, a number of shoemakers working in Brooklyn rebelled against the impositions of the employer and the employer's whip, John Tobin of Gompers' A.F. of L. A member of a "Chicago Headquarters," which piratically flies the colors of the I.W.W. and is better known in the land as the "I'm-a-bummery," happening around, took the men in hand, organized them and led them on to a strike.

The striking shoemakers had a good cause. What set of proletarians in rebellion has not? Under these circumstances the *Daily People* shut its eyes to the I'm-a-bum, or "Chicago Headquarters," affiliations of J. Ettor, the individual who took charge. Remembering, however, that "Direct Action," "Theft," blood and thunder, "Strike at the ballot box with an axe," "Sabotage," and other such phrases from the mischievous rant of Anarchy were the tenets of the above named "Chicago Headquarters," and aware that Mr. Ettor had come freshly from McKees Rock where his preachments had borne their fatal results to the lives of workingmen, the *Daily People* notified the gentleman that its support would be unswerving, provided he put and kept a padlock on his Anarchic and otherwise mischievous tenets, and preached only the gospel of the I.W.W. of 1905; that, however, the instant the padlock should come off fire would be opened upon him through these columns in the interest of the Working Class.

The warning was heeded. The padlock was kept on. And throughout the strike, with its eye single upon the just cause of the strikers, the *Daily People* supported them, and through its support compelled the Socialist party press of the city to open their columns to the men.

This is Socialist Labor Party standard. This is the standard of a body that sets the interests of the proletariat above all things. Mr. Ettor's personality in the strike was repulsive. The repulsiveness was swallowed in the interest of proletarians battling in civilized manner for a cause that was just.

Compare that standard with the standard of conduct that the article "Paterson Strike Facts" exhibits the I'm-a-bummery in towards the weavers on strike against the intensified exploitation of the four-loom system. The I'm-a-bummery, which affects to spurn the "capitalistic ballot box," is seen in the capitalist press shying a blow, a slanderous one, at that, at the leader of the strike who, to his honor, is not to their liking, and thus are allowing their malice the right of way over the interests of wage slaves—wage slaves in battle.

This is a tragic sight, yet an instructive:—The I.W.W. and the S.L.P., fighting hand in hand the battle of the Working Class against the Capitalist in the open and in civilized manner, with the I'm-a-bummery, as the latest evidence that Slummery is the Capitalist's ally, fighting the strike from behind the trenches of a capitalist newspaper—and the Socialist party, hand in hand with Gompers's Agent, fittingly acting as background or stage setting.

THIS is the fight—THESE the contestants and their affiliations.

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