

EDITORIAL

T.G. MISSES THE POINT

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN the New York *Times* of June 13, there appears a letter signed “T.G.,” Brooklyn, relative to the doings of General Sherman M. Bell in the Colorado mine strike. The writer—“T.G.,” as he says, intentionally passes by without comment all the acts of the Colorado warrior bold, and considers only his forcible closing up of the Portland mine. This mine employing about 500 men, settled the dispute with the operatives ten months ago and has been running steadily and successfully ever since. “T.G.” waxes indignant over the general’s czar-like conduct in high-handedly closing up this peaceful mine and bull penning and shooting its orderly miners.

But “T.G.” misses the point entirely. It may be that he is not in possession of all the facts. We shall now supply him with them. General Sherman M. Bell is himself an employee of a mine company—the Independence mine—a competing concern to the Portland mine which he closed down at the rifle’s muzzle. The Independence mine company has been utterly unable to break the strike in its own plant, and all its attempts to fill the places of the strikers have failed. The general’s salary depends upon the working of that mine. When the mine is not producing, dividends and salaries cease.

From these facts “T.G.” can make his own deductions, as to why General Sherman M. Bell, seeing a competing mine running full blast should use his military power to shut it down. And his further action in offering the Portland miners the alternative of going to the bull pen or to work in the mines closed by the strikers—preferably the Independence, should give “T.G.” additional light by which to make correct deductions.

“T.G.” likens the Colorado commander to the Czar of Russia—certainly an undignified comparison, so far as the Czar is concerned. The Czar does not descend

to the dirtiness of competing capitalists for dividends and his salary. Much better would have been the comparison, had "T.G." likened the general to a famished wolf deprived of its prey, and which in a blind rage runs amuck in wild revenge.

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