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EDITORIAL

IMPOTENCE AND IMPUDENCE.

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REPRESENTATIVES of railroad employes—a body of wage slaves estimated at about 250,000, and the importance of whose post for the emancipation of the Working Class is being exemplified in the Russian revolution—stepped up humbly on the 14th instant before President Roosevelt, and with bated breath entered a tremulous protest against the proposed rate legislation. The argument of these men was that the rate legislation logically meant lower rates, and that this, in turn, could not choose but be followed by lower wages.

Pure and simple Unionism had for its mission to help speed the transition from small and scattered to huge and concentrated production. That mission was useful. It urged on the day of the Co-operative Commonwealth. The demands of pure and simple Unionism, though petty, served to help wipe out the small concerns, and thus bring about the mammoth establishments that the Socialist Commonwealth could and now can take over. In this process pure and simple Unionism necessarily gravitated towards the bigger master; it ever served as the scaffolding up which the towering capitalist climbed and raised his structure. Such a structure is the present railroad system of the land; such a rotten-ripe fruit for shaking off is the railroad magnates class. And yet the spectacle presented by the wage slaves' committee that memorialized the President was that of the scaffolding of a ready building praying to be continued as scaffolding. The spectacle was even more pitiful. It was that of 250,000 men, who hold the most strategic position for the overthrow of wage slavery, and the bones of whose craftsmen bleach the shambles of capitalism, are satisfied to clank their chains, and beg to continue to serve their immediate masters against the masters of other divisions of their fellow wage slaves!—What a picture of IMPOTENCE!

On the other hand we have the President or chieftain of the capitalist class

indulging towards these men in the pharasaic cant about the mutuality of the interests of the workingman and the employer, of the bloodsucked and the bloodsucker. Telling them that if either encroached upon the other they would be fought by him—by him who, in his last annual message, denounced as intolerable the action of some letter carriers to do just what the railroad magnates engaged in the transportation of the mails did with his approval, to wit, organize for the purpose of bringing political pressure upon Congress to raise the appropriations for their incomes, and who enforced his denunciations by causing the said “culprit” letter carriers to be dismissed from the service.—What a picture of IMPUDENCE!

And the two pictures illumined each other. Impotent Pure and Simpledom was too craven to cry “Shame!” upon the impudence; impudent Capitalism drew sap from the knock-kneed impotence before it.

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

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