

EDITORIAL

## THE SWEDISH STRIKE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**HETHER the Swedish strike is weakening or not; that magnificent symptom of the times has had upon the freaks' world an effect that shows no sign of abating.

The freak is a faddist. The best definition of the faddist is that he is a one-legged hobbyist. The faddist has ascertained a fact, or, say, a truth. From that he draws conclusions, wholly ignorant of any other fact or facts that have to be taken into consideration, and, without which, the correct conclusion is not reachable, the only thing reachable being nonsense. The faddist, for instance, might happen upon the fact that the heart is an indispensable part of the human anatomy. That he will understand to mean that the heart is **THE** indispensable part; and he will proceed to the conclusion that a human being may live, love and enjoy life if he but have a heart;—the kidneys, the liver, the lungs, the brains and other vitals may all, should all be neglected. Preserve the heart—and all's well. That's the faddist in biology.

The biologic faddist has his exact counterpart in the sociologic faddist.

On the domain of sociology one set of faddists have run upon the truth that the ballot is an indispensable weapon to the social revolution. That they have understood to mean that the ballot is **THE** indispensable thing. Another set have run upon the truth that physical force is an indispensable weapon to social revolution. That they, in turn, understand to mean that physical force is **THE** indispensable weapon. Each set, giving exclusive heed to what it takes to be the indispensable thing, neglects and rejects all the other weapons needed, and, consequently, arrive at conclusions that are as nonsensical as {it} would be to claim that the human body can exist with heart only;—and they deport and comport themselves in ways that match the nonsense of their "theory."

To these two sets of faddists the Swedish strike has been a veritable delight.

The set that holds to the ballot, pure and simple, draw satisfaction from the reports that the strike is melting away. “Said we not so?” say they; “the ballot is THE thing—look at the Swedish strike!” The other set, the one that holds to physical force pure and simple, draw their satisfaction from the strike itself. “Said we not so?” say they, “physical force is THE thing—look at the Swedish strike!” And the two sets sit back and loll, each in its particular fad; or rock themselves complacently on their particular one-legged hobby-horse.

In the meantime the Movement marches on, furnishing daily the illustrations that sweep the faddists aside, and that joins the truths which neither understands, because neither grasps both.

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

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[socialists@slp.org](mailto:socialists@slp.org)