

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 244.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

PHILA.'S MIDWINTER 4TH OF JULY.

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NEXT Fourth of July the City of Philadelphia may dispense with the performance of reading the Declaration of Independence. It has done so in advance. During the last week the city has been practicing the thing with a series of thrilling tableaux.

The tableaux represent two groups:

One group consists of President Kruger of the Rapid Transit Company with George H. Earle, one of the city's representatives on the Board of Directors, to his right, and Mayor Reyburn to his left. These constitute the central figures. Grouped around them are Director of Public Safety Henry Clay, before whom is spread a map of the city over which he is shifting pins representing policemen; Gen. Groome, commander of the State Constabulary, looking grim and ponderous, and ponderously and grimly issuing orders; the Magistrate before whom Pratt and Murphy were hauled; and last, not least, the multiple spirit of Gen. Stewart who has promised to pour 10,000 soldiers into the city.—This group represents the "Government," mailed of hand, in the full panoply of power.

The other tableau represents rails pulled up; trolley cars jumping into the air and crashing into stores; piles of brick barricading one street; a dumped truckload of coal barricading another street; police shooting and fleeing while they shoot; bricks flying in the air and crushing through the windows of cars; strike-breaking motormen and passengers falling flat on their faces to escape contact with brickbats; trolley cars, that but even now corrivalled greatness as they left the stables, ignominiously turned turtle, or lying on their beam-ends; and around it all, a surging mass of humanity, workers and their friends, refusing to be governed by the "Government."—This group represents the "governed."

It was in that identical Philadelphia, that, on a certain 4th of July, a certain

document was issued which contained this clause:

“Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded February 2011

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