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EDITORIAL

CONTENTMENT AND LOYALTY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

GEORGE H. EARLE, the representative of the city government of Philadelphia on the Board of Directors of the Rapid Transit Company who firmly resisted all pressure to compromise with its striking employes, and who was not to be swayed even by the threat of a sympathetic strike by all the workers of the city, said on March 2nd: "All our cars which are not disabled are running; our present employes are CONTENTED AND LOYAL."

The present employes did not leave a good job for a better. The jobs they took were left vacant, not because the former incumbents, being "in clover," desired to be "in roses." The jobs were left vacant because the former incumbents felt as if they were spitted over a fire, dripping their substance into the cannibal pockets of the Company. The men who jumped at these given-up jobs certainly did not do so to render their condition worse. Men, who themselves spit themselves on the spits that the former employes vacated, must have been in an even worse predicament. The long and short of it is that, if the "present employes" are what Mr. Earle says they are, "contented and loyal," then the country has already produced a breed the physiognomy of which Eugene Sue sketched with master strokes as a breed from which human progress has nothing to expect, the food for cannon of Usurpation.

In the Sue historic novel *The Pilgrim's Shell* a scene is described where the preachers of the first Crusade harangue the serfs of the Seigneur of Plouernel. The serfs, bent under the galling yoke of their Lord and his bailiff, listened, and then divided into two. One set availed itself with avidity of the opportunity to escape from their thralldom; and, intoning the Crusaders' song, turned their backs upon their chains and followed Cuckoo Peter and Walter the Pennyless to Jerusalem. Another set, led by a spineless serf, old Martin the Prudent, marched back to their daily toil, approached their task-master, the bailiff, and said to him: "Good master

Garin, we are not of those rebels who dare to flee from the lands of their seigneur to Palestine with that troop of Crusaders that are traveling through the country. We do not intend to abandon the domain of our seigneur. We wish to work for him to our last day.”

These were the “contented” ones; these were the “loyal.” Fortunately for mankind they were but a small minority. They were the mental, moral and physical cripples. Ten to one, it is to be hoped, nay, it is quite certain, the “contented and loyal” employes of Mr. Earle’s Company will eventually, if not sooner, in turn give him a dose of what “contentment and loyalty” evolutes to among the Proletariat.

With the mass of the Proletariat “contentment and loyalty” are but the starting point for revolt, blind, at first, finally class-consciously open-eyed.

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