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## Penny Wise, Pound Foolish.

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**A**n admission by United States Senator Hawley, of Connecticut, on the clash of interests among the bosses, serves excellently to illustrate the worse than folly on the part of the proletariat in taking up capitalist issues, such conduct being identical with the hopeless splitting up of their ranks and fighting one another, instead of jointly fighting the common foe—the pilferers of their wages.

Said Senator Hawley:

“The most singular clashes of interests are developed as the work goes on from paragraph to paragraph.” What is raw material to one man is elaborated product to another. One wants wool admitted free of duty that he may produce his cloth cheaper, and the great body of farmers scattered all over the union demand a duty upon wool to aid them in securing good prices for what is to them the finished product. This is the simplest of cases.”

Now, imagine the employes of the manufacturers of wool listening to a Gompers, or some such ignoramus, and taking up the cudgels for their low tariff bosses with low tariff resolutions addressed to Congress, while at the same time some other ignoramus of the Gompers stripe, who seeks to organize the farm hands, addresses his hearers for the purpose of inducing them to take up the cudgels for their high tariff bosses with high tariff resolutions addressed to Congress, and each set of resolutions declaring, with an emphasis peculiar to the inspiration of labor fakirs, that, without it is listened to, the “interests of labor will be put in jeopardy,” and “labor will revenge itself at the polls”! Imagine that, a sight not difficult to imagine, it is of daily occurrence, and what is the result? The employes of each set of bosses stand up hostile to one another; the identity of their interests is lost sight of; each is made to believe that the other’s interests are opposed to its own; they lose all consciousness of a common cause; their central organizations become ropes of sand; in short, their forces are shattered.

Such is the condition that the stupid policy of being guided by the motto:

“Something Now!” invariably places the working classes in. The only “Something” worth striving for “Now,” because it is the only one attainable “Now,” is the laying of as solid a foundation as possible on which to move step by step to the conquest of the public powers, and thereby bring nearer the day in emancipation. All other “Somethings Now” are snares and delusions, children of a policy proverbially false, the policy “Penny wise, pound foolish.”

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

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