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EDITORIAL

ENLARGING THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

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THE movement to teach school children the rudiments of army life goes on apace. The bill recently passed by the Assembly makes it almost compulsory for schools to have a military instructor. This, in itself, will give much needed employment to antiquated soldiers, and can be made the repository of numerous and importunate office seekers.

But Brooklyn has made a step that is far in advance of the mere drills that are customary in schools. The High School of that borough has formed a company that is to join the Thirteenth Regiment, "in order that the pupils may become familiarized with service, and may be the better trained to fill their duty as citizens," that is to say, may learn to shoot down men on strike. The duty of a citizen, therefore, is to be familiar with the best means of brow-beating the workers, to understand the "art of war" so that our civilization may not fall, to be so trained and so placed that they may be called out to the "defence of our institutions" at a moment's notice, and to place themselves in such a position that they may be most useful to the class in power.

We have never heard of soldiers being called to protect workingmen from the abuse and insults of capitalists; or of soldiers being brought out to resist a cut-down; or of soldiers being used to prevent workingmen from being robbed, plundered, and wronged. The game is always the other way.

There are doubtlessly workingmen's sons in the Brooklyn High School. In joining this company they join in a warfare against their own fathers, and against themselves. They become the tools of the oppressors of their fathers. They place themselves on record as being in favor of a state that has used the soldiery to break strikes and shoot down strikers.

The working class not only is the meal that is ground out in the capitalist hopper, but it also is to be made to supply the stones that do the grinding.

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

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