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EDITORIAL

## IMPATIENT CAPITALISTS!

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**T**HE cry comes from English capitalist sources that things are not as they should {be}: Upheavals in China and famines in India have restricted the consumption of Lancashire and other products; no other market has come forward to make good the losses thus arising; as a result, wages have declined and hours have become unsteady; the English workingmen are resenting this experience, those senseless workingmen! Why, “they seem,” so runs the whine, “quite incapable of comprehending the economic laws at work forcing the employers to take the resented measures in self-defence! Stupid workingmen!” The cry is given wide circulation on the other side of the waters. Also our capitalists, expressing themselves through their press, are astonished at such crass lack of “comprehension” on the part of the workingmen.

Strange capitalist “incomprehension!” The capitalists should thank their stars that the workingmen, at least the large majority of them, do not yet “comprehend;” instead of whining at the failure of the workingman to “comprehend the economic laws at work,” the capitalists should feel happy, raise the hire of their Labor Lieutenants to keep the workingmen from “comprehending;” the day the workingmen do “comprehend,” that day they will trample under foot that breast work of capitalism and palladium of “incomprehension”—the Labor-Fakir-led British style of Trade Unionism; and, having cleared that earth-work, storm without difficulty the citadel of Capitalism.

What the workingman does not comprehend to-day is that there is no salvation for him under the capitalist system of society; he does not comprehend that, under this system, he is bound to decline on the whole, and that the only real variation to the tune is {in?} such times as these, when he gets caught and squeezed some more in the cogs of the mechanism of capital, over whose workings he, consenting to allow the capitalist class to run that mechanism through the political power, has no control whatever. With blinkers clapped to his eyes by the agents of the capitalist

class, the masses of the workers follow a chimera to-day, the chimera of imagining that the Labor Question, the question of wages, is merely an economic question. Their lack of comprehension begins and ends there.

But, no danger! They are bound to comprehend! The militant Socialists are on the war path. Veritable heroes, they are grappling with the Beast of Incomprehension, tearing him to pieces, and clearing wide the path for the fullest comprehension.

Messrs. Capitalists need not despair. If it is any comfort to them, they may know that the Working Class is sure to comprehend, it is comprehending. Let them be patient; the day will come; let them take the cue from their pickets, the Labor Lieutenants; these are not excited about any lack of comprehension; what disturbs their peace is that comprehension is bursting in through doors and windows.

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