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EDITORIAL

## CAUSE FOR WORKING CLASS REFLECTION!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**E**VENTS now occurring simultaneously in the States of Pennsylvania and New York, should cause workingmen to stop and reflect. In Pennsylvania, Governor Stone has called out the entire State Militia, numbering 11,000 men, to end the coal strike in the interests of the coal operators and the political aspirations of President Roosevelt. In New York State, Governor Odell ordered the entire Second Regiment, consisting of 1100 men and officers to Glens Falls to intimidate the Hudson Valley Railway strikers. In Pennsylvania, the calling out of the State troops is justified on the ground of lawlessness and violence; in New York, it is said that there is “no serious outbreak, but trouble is feared.” From this it will be seen that whether there is violence or not, the State Militia is employed in the interests of the capitalist class, while no effort is made to utilize the powers of the State in the interests of the working class.

These facts should sink deeply into the minds of the members of the working class. They should make clear to it that government is but an instrument for the protection and advancement of capitalist interests. They should make clear to it that government will remain so as long as it is made up of representatives having capitalist interests and believing in capitalist society. From this the working class should rightly conceive that in order to change government in the interests of the working class, working class representatives and working class interests must control and dominate it.

When the working class is in control of the powers of State, it can then employ those powers in its interests and against those of the capitalist class. This has been done to a certain extent—limited only by the limited control of the political power—by the workingmen of France. There, the municipalities controlled by the class conscious Socialists have used the powers of taxation and appropriation in favor of the working class, so adjusting the tax list that appropriations needed for working class improvement

fall upon the capitalists. Appropriations are made in favor of strikers from municipal funds, while the police powers are used, as much as possible, to their advantage, while public order is also maintained and criminal violence prevented.

The working class will be told that this is “class legislation.” All modern legislation is class legislation. There are millions in land grants, ship subsidies, bond issues, sugar bounties and rebates for the capitalist class, but not a cent for labor. The State and judiciary protect the capital and property of the capitalist class from destruction, while the laborer is left to protect his property—his labor—as best as he may, alone and unaided. If his property suffer destruction through idleness and starvation, that’s his own and not the State’s lookout.

Workingmen, out on such arguments! Seize the powers of State! Vote your own class party, the Socialist Labor Party, into office and control.

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