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EDITORIAL

## AN ADMIRABLE WORKING CLASS SPIRIT.

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**T**HE working class is possessed of an admirable spirit incipient of class-consciousness. This spirit proves indomitable under the most trying circumstances. If properly developed it would lead to the overthrow of capitalism and the emancipation of labor.

Just now this spirit is being exhibited in all its grandeur at New Orleans, La., and Schenectady, N.Y. At New Orleans the striking trolley men are being intimidated by the militia, yet despite these repressive influences they manfully spurn the concessions of the corporation against whom they are striking. At Schenectady trades-unionists have defied the power of the State and deserted the National Guard. They refuse to be instruments of working class oppression and put down the peaceful striking trolley employees of the Hudson Valley Railroad Company.

Such a spirit cannot be overrated. It is grand, and if developed would secure freedom for labor from capitalism. Such a spirit fully matured is invincible. It would be greater than the faith which removes mountains.

But this spirit is not developed. Instead of maturing this incipient class-consciousness, the trades union of the Gompers-Hanna type destroy it. By its false teachings of the mutual interests of capital and labor, this trades-unionism leads the working class to regard its foe as its friend, and instead of causing the working class to seek emancipation through itself and itself only, it leads them to believe that emancipation is possible through the class that enslaves the working class and profits thereby, that is, the capitalist class.

This fact cannot be insisted upon too strongly, for there are some who contend that the demonstration of this spirit is a manifestation of the class struggle, and that consequently the Gompers-Hanna type of union is a class-conscious organization. As

well might it be said, that since the reactionary Democrats denounce trusts because they destroy the middle class that they are Marxian Socialists, for don't the Marxian Socialists denounce trusts, too?

Incipient class-consciousness is to be encouraged. It must be developed. But, in order that it may be encouraged, the Hanna-Gompers type of trade union must go. The S.T. & L.A. type must prevail.

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