

EDITORIAL

THE DELAWARE STRAW.

By DANIEL DE LEON

DELAWARE dispatches bring the information that the deadlock for U.S. Senator in that State is broken, at last. This is true: the fact that the Legislature elected both a long term and a short term incumbent sufficiently proves the claim. When, however, the dispatches proceed to announce that "Delaware is now again represented in the Federal Senate," they claim more than they have verse and chapter for. It is not "Delaware" that secured "representatives": it is certain industries that secured representatives. The fact in this instance is all the more strongly emphasized by the business of the long term successful candidate.

James Frank Allee is President of a brick company situated not within the borders of his, but within the borders of this State,—the Staten Island Brick Company. In the Senate, it will not be the State of Delaware that Mr. Allee will represent, but the wapentake of the Staten Island Brick Company.

It was behind the shadow of "State lines" that the Southern secessionists raised the political theory of their move. It was athwart that shadow that the North smote the move. When the Civil War was over, "State lines" vanished. They remained as geographic demarcations. As always happens in such cases of unconscious development, "State lines" have preserved a political varnish or flavor; but the industrial development, that brought on the abolition of slavery, already had reduced the "State lines" to but a shadow of their pristine significance. What was left of them since then is but a shadow of a shadow. The accelerated tempo, under which the industrial development proceeded after the war, has played havoc with the "State lines." To-day they are but myths.

No longer are States represented in the Federal Senate. That clumsy feudal tenure has ceased to exist de facto. The Senate of the United States is the Council Chamber in which are gathered the Princes of Railroad empires; the Dukes of Coal and Mineral

duchies; the Marquises of Oil-shires; the Squires of Brick wapentakes; the Peers of Telegraph feoffs; the Lairds of Steel-principalities; the Bashaws of Cattle-realms; the Baronets of Clothing-ridings; the Margraves of Stock-and-Bond circuits; etc., etc. It is the boundary lines of these fiefs that now actually divide the Nation; and they it is, not States, that are to-day the actual bases of representation.

As far as this new “basis of representation” is concerned, it marks progress. Not area, but industries, is the rational foundation of civilized “government.” So far, however, the political, or governmental, development has been unconscious. Being unconscious, there still remains floating the myth of “State lines,” and there remains the practical misrepresentation of “owners” or usurpers, instead of workers.

The conscious development is still to come; it will manifest itself when the emancipated working class, putting a final quietus to the myth, and, along with the myth, to the usurping capitalist misrepresenter, will rear the Socialist Republic. “Government” will, then as now, be based on industries, but avowedly so. And the “reins of government” will then be held by the delegates of the Trades Unions, assembled in the Council Chamber of the Nation.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded November 2006