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EDITORIAL

LISTEN TO THE THIMBLE-RIGGING HYPOCRITE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE New York *Evening Post* has this to say on the number of children who will this year be excluded from school for want of room:

Seventy-eight thousand children to be turned away, mostly because of unfinished buildings—this is the situation which will face the school board at the opening of its scholastic year. The fault lies with organized labor, which respects the needs of the city's children as little as it does those of any other class. All alike must suffer in order that the unions may dominate, and thus it is that the many incomplete school buildings attest the latest tyranny of labor. As a result, only 19,809 new sittings can be provided by the board this fall, although the natural increase each year is 25,000 children, and there were 68,340 children crowded out of school last year. But for the strike the school authorities would have caught up with the arrearage by December, 1904. Now it is impossible to foresee when this great city will be able to carry out its pledge to give every child the whole of the education to which it is entitled. The greatest injury is, of course, to the children of the workingmen themselves. Every day that they are kept out of school diminishes their chance of getting ahead in the world by acquiring knowledge. Every day that they are turned out into the open instead of going to school increases the danger that they will be contaminated by the influences of the street. But of all this the labor leaders think as little as they do of their own best interests, or of the welfare of the city, when they indulge in unnecessary and protracted strikes.

And who may this *Evening Post* be?

It, that here so glibly talks of better and fuller school accommodations for the children of the poor, is the free trader, that in one breath tells the workingmen that they pay taxes in that the tariff dues come out of their pockets, and in the next breath denies that Labor pays taxes and browbeats the workers' demands that

“would increase the burdens of taxation on the tax-payers”!

It, that here turns up its eyes heavenward at the “impairing of the prospects of the children of the poor,” is the recommender of the “rifle diet” for the fathers of these very children!

It, that has salaamed to a scabby Gompers when he organized scabs to break strikes, now pretends to be indignant at “organized labor” for having interfered with the building of schools!

It, that affects statistical accuracy, and “high moral aims,” here deals out the gold brick that, if but the school houses now kept back by strikes were completed, “the school authorities would have caught up” with the increased demand for school room, when the fact is that these authorities, its patrons, are ready to give millions for armories and only pennies for schools, and have long, long been away behind the demand—and don’t care!

It, that now bemoans the “turning of the workingman’s children into the open,” supports, protects and abates the brigand class that robs these children, from the cradle to the grave!

It, that here affects great concern for the welfare of the city, is a candle-bearer for Asphalt Green and Coffee-Cornering Low!

For thimble-rigging and hypocrisy, give us an organ of the Wall street gamblers.

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