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EDITORIAL

LET 'EM BE TESTED.

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THE claim made by what Socialists call “the Capitalist Class Government” that it is not a capitalist class Government, but is the Government of the whole people, can now be easily put to the test by the Unions. The hint is being given free, gratis and for nothing by the railway companies.

Of late there has broken out a positive epidemic of “even-handed justice.” Decision after decision has been handed {down} condemning Unions, and planting the condemnation upon laws that were enacted seemingly against capitalists only. For instance, the Sherman anti-Trust law, supposed to be “class legislation” against the capitalist class only, was proved to be no class legislation at all, but legislation “for the whole people.” The proof was furnished by decisions mulcting Unions for boycotting, the effect of the boycott being shown to be frowned upon by the anti-Trust law. The commentaries from capitalist press, pulpit and politicians, hailed the decision as an act that demonstrates that our Government is not one of, and for, and by a class, but by, for and of all classes.—So far so good.

Now comes the hint, above referred to as given free, gratis and for nothing by the railroad companies. A law was enacted last year prohibiting railroad companies from owning lands the product of which they transport. The law was intended to prevent the railroads from throwing out of business coal land owners who did not own railroads, and who, therefore, would have to pay freight for transportation, and be thereby disabled to compete with the coal owned by railroad companies and transported by themselves free of charge. The railroad companies bowed meekly to the law. They sold all their coal lands—to whom? To people disconnected with themselves? No. They transferred their coal lands, either to their own stockholders, or to the wives, the cousins, the sisters and aunts of the Directors. Now, here is the hint—the Unions are prohibited to boycott; that is found and declared to be as

wrongful as the holding of coal lands by railroad companies. The railroad companies transferred those lands to parties interested in the roads. Let the Unions take the hint. Instead of the Union declaring a boycott, let individual Union members do so; let the Union, in imitation of the roads, transfer the boycott power to their wives, their sisters, their cousins and their aunts. The roads have not been prosecuted for trying to “cheat the gallows,” so to speak; seeing that the Government is not a class Government, it can not condemn the Unions for doing what it allows the railroad companies to do.

Let the test be made. It will surely enlighten many a head, now steeped in darkness. Whether the head to be enlightened is the head of the Socialist, who viciously insists in saying that the present Government is the Government of a class—the Capitalist Class—against another class—the Working Class; or whether the head to be enlightened will be that of visionaries who deny Socialism—that would be soon found out.

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

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