

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## WE TOLD YOU SO.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**N**OT so many moons ago—on the occasion of one of Senator Tillman’s impassioned outbursts against Negro Domination and fervid pledges to uphold at any cost the supremacy of the white race—*The People* stated it should not be surprised to see Tillman turn a somersault and come out some day as a vindicator of the Negro, “at any cost”; and that the change would come about whenever the class interests of Tillman’s capitalist class should dictate the somersault. The language of one of Georgia’s leading “white man’s” papers, the *Augusta Chronicle*, held on the occasion of the railroad strike in the State, is not yet up to the prophesied mark; that’s true; it is, however, a long step in that direction.

The white locomotive engineers, anxious to reduce the supply of labor in their own craft so as to secure the jobs and prevent a decline in wages, struck the Tillman or “Southron” attitude. They would not allow Negro firemen on the engine. One should expect that such a “patriotic” poise on the part of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers would have endeared these gentlemen to what may be called the Tillman heart, Tillman being a type of that particular heart. So, at least, would the unsophisticated have expected. Well it happened otherwise.

The language now held by the *Augusta Chronicle* is the language of the Negro-lover—it is even more revolutionary; it is Socialistic. The until now anti-Negro domination *Chronicle* roundly condemns the conduct of the locomotive engineers as an attempt to take away from the Negro firemen “their right to labor.”

What’s the whyness of this wherefore? ’Tis plain as a pike.

If the Negroes are kept away from the engines, then, as the white locomotive engineers correctly reckon, there will be less danger to their, the locomotive engineers’ craft being oversupplied; if their craft is not oversupplied their wages will run less risk of declining. For the identical reason, however, the railroad

stockholders favor the colored firemen. If the craft of the engineers is overstocked, then their wages must come down. Lower wages translate themselves into higher profits. Hence the change of front on the part of the *Chronicle* and of all other otherwise anti-Negro holders of stock and, consequently, panthers after higher profits whom the *Chronicle* represents or is owned by.

The “purity of the white race” has run up against the “purity of profits.” When a vapor runs up against a solid the solid prevails.

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