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SECOND EDITORIAL

SHANGHAIING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

That philanthropic institution, the Pennsylvania Railroad, has adopted a new method of securing labor; a method worthy of the old press-gang system that England formerly recruited her naval and military service by. Recently some trouble arose near Trenton, N.J., between the track-laborers—mostly Italians—and the Company. The men went on strike. The matter was kept out of the papers and as quiet as possible. The officers of the road in New York were instructed to quietly gather together as many unemployed as they could, but no Italians, on the representation that they were to go to work in “Jersey.” Some eighty men, secured by one officer on this understanding, were put on a train at Jersey City, and the car doors locked.

On reaching the scene of the trouble, the men learned of the strike and at once refused to go to work. Threats and cajoleries having no effect, the company left them to shift for themselves, while it endeavored to come to terms with the strikers. This exhibition of solidarity on the part of the strikers came as a surprise to the company. The railroad officials' maxim: “In times of trouble, mix the nationalities” received a knock-out blow. For the past six months the capitalist press, Democratic and Republican, has been lauding to the skies the Relief Fund, the Pension Department and other “beneficial” schemes of the company. It can now add one more: “The Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Department of Shanghaiing.”

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

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