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EDITORIAL

## THE PICKLE THEY ARE IN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE suit brought against the Brooklyn Heights Railroad Company nearly three years ago by the Trolley-men's Local of the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance, was, as announced in these columns, brought to a successful termination after a two days' trial on the 17th instant. The jury found the Company guilty as charged in the indictment, and the verdict was rendered within twenty-five minutes after the jury left their seats. Whatever may be the fate of the case after this—whether the Company submits; whether it appeal the case, as it threatens to do, on the constitutionality of the law; and whether its appeal be sustained or denied—the Brooklyn Heights Railroad Company, together with other railroad companies in the State, and accompanied by their lackeys, the Organized Scabbery, is in unenviable pickle.

The Ten Hour Railroad Labor law was passed in 1892. Like all such laws, it was intended as a sop at the rank and file of the workers, and for the special protection of the Organized Scabbery that officers them. Without such periodical sops, the Organized Scabbery could not keep the blinkers on their dupes making them believe that the Socialists were “off” and that the old parties were their friends. Such sops or “laws” would then be paraded as “victories of Unionism”; and the expectation is that the “victory” will be forgotten, and the capitalist class would continue to ride the working class with the Organized Scabbery holding the stirrups.

It so happened in this case. The “victory” was understood to be so dead a letter that, when the rank and file of the Buffalo switchmen were forced to work twelve and fourteen and more hours a day, and when subsequently the trolley-men of Brooklyn were likewise forced to work many hours above the legal stretch, the Organized Scabbery that officered them carefully led their thoughts away from the

Courts. An action on the statute would either give hand and feet to the “victory” (to the Companies’ sorrow), or it would uncover the deadness of the “victory” (to the Organized Scabbery’s sorrow). Neither Companies nor lackeys wanted that. Instead, the rank and file were led into strikes where they were bayoneted into submission.

The action of the S.T. & L.A. Trolleyemen’s Local was the first attempt made to test the law. If the law is found to hold water, the Companies will be put to serious inconvenience and expense to bribe their employees into keeping quiet; if the law is declared unconstitutional, then the Organized Scabbery will be put to it in order to find some new pretext to keep their dupes in tow. In either case the Companies are in a pickle, and their Labor Lieutenants are in a pickle.

Animated by true philanthropy, the Socialist Labor Party strains to get this gentry out of the pickle they are in. And there is but one way to get them out, and that is to kick them out of political and thereby out of economic power.

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

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