

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 169.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## LEST WE BECOME CHINESE WORSHIPPERS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE report from the Pacific coast that the Chinese, supposed to be an “unorganizable” and cheap-labor set, are found there not only organized in Unions, but organized with a scale of wages higher than that of the white workers in the corresponding trades, and obtain the scale,—such a report is quite apt to cause the featherweights, who looked upon the Chinese, Orientals generally, as “backward” and “inferior” races, to swing to the opposite extreme. When Japan—long held in silent contempt as “Oriental”—was suddenly found a match for a European nation in all the arts of war, a Japan-cult sprang up. The very elements that had despised thereupon began to entertain a superstitious awe for “The Jap.” The same may now happen with regard to the Chinese, in America, suddenly discovered to be the superior of the White, in keeping up wages. The secret will probably be considered mysterious, and the Chinese become an object of worship.

There is nothing mysterious in the matter.

“Yellow” labor in America enjoys an advantage not enjoyed by the “White.” What may that advantage be? The advantage lies in the non-existence of the “Yellow” scab-herder, in short, the non-existence of “Yellow” Civic Federationized A.F. of L. officers. The answer may seem to prove a mysterious power in the Chinese—the power of preventing the rise and spread among themselves of the afore-named pestilence, the microbe of the Civic Federationized A.F. of L. presidents, secretaries, etc. No; the answer proves no such mysterious power. What the answer does is to lead to the cause of the cause.

The cause of the greater effectiveness of the Chinese Unions on the Pacific coast is the absence of the “Yellow” scab-herder. The cause of the absence of the “Yellow” scab-herder is the absence of the “Yellow” unemployed, at least in numbers as large

as the “White” unemployed. Is this a racial peculiarity of the “Yellow” race? Not at all.

Concentrated capital, hence an excessive supply of labor-power in the labor market, brings about an unemployed proletariat. An unemployed proletariat stands where the roads fork. One road is marked with a sign-post that bears the device:

“You have worked yourselves out of work. The reason is that the necessities for work (themselves the product of labor, or the gift of Nature) are the property of a class, an idle class, the capitalist class. If these necessities for work were owned by all who work, were owned collectively by the people, then you never would be out of work; what is more, you would have an abundance; and what is still more, you would enjoy the abundance without toil: healthy exercise would be all that is required. Organize; overthrow the capitalist class; establish the Socialist Republic.”

The other road is marked with a sign-board that bears the device:

“You are in misery? The depth of your misery is the exact measure of the bliss you will enjoy in Paradise. Growl not against the will of God. The capitalist is your brother. Your interests and his are reciprocal. We can not all be rich.”

Left unstimulated, there can be no doubt which road the proletariat would strike. The choice would be decidedly disagreeable to the capitalist class. At that point and from these circumstances rises the Labor-lieutenant of the capitalist class. He shoos the proletariat on to the latter road. The increased poverty there in store for the wayfarer furnishes the ready scabs whom the Labor-lieutenant herds, “organizes,” and furnishes to the capitalist wherewith to smash all Union wage scales, accordingly all Unionism in its proper sense.

Human nature, being the same everywhere, operates identically under identical material surroundings. The same material surroundings that breed the “White” scab-herder will also breed the “Yellow” ditto. It is quite doubtful that there is any race elect of the Lord. It is quite certain that, in point of Unionism, and all that thereby hangs, all races stand at a par.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded November 2011

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)