

# The People.

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EDITORIAL

## NOTE THE FACT.

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**T**he strike or boycott of the Typographical Union against the New York *Sun* has brought out a valuable piece of evidence on what may be called “The Situation, as created by Pure and Simpledom.”

The *Sun* has, last week, a two-column article on what it calls its grievances. The *Sun* is none too good to lie, especially when its lies will injure Labor. Nevertheless, the list of evidence it adduces may safely be used on the general and sound principle that the best possible evidence is the evidence against oneself. The *Sun* did not so mean it; but that makes no difference. The *Sun*'s evidence convicts it.

Four-fifths of the space that the *Sun* devotes to its charges against the Typographical Union is taken up with a detailed enumeration of rascally acts that, it says, the Union perpetrated upon the paper. As will presently appear, the darker the *Sun* draws this part of the picture, all the harder it hits itself. While reading this long indictment one wonders, from count to count with increasing wonderment, how the *Sun* could put up with such treatment. Indignation at the alleged rascalities of the Union vanishes to make place for surprise at the *Sun*'s meekness, and even contempt for its cravenness; until one comes to the conclusion that the capitalist concern that could brook such indignities must surely be cowed beyond redemption. At that stage surprise reaches its climax; the cowed concern suddenly becomes a bull, a roaring bull, strong, fiery, resolute. Why so? How so? Here is the point, and the answer to the eternal undoing of the *Sun*, i.e., of capitalism that the *Sun* stands for, is furnished by the *Sun* itself in its closing count to the indictment or the “evidence.”

In the *Sun* office there is no Mergenthaler type-setting machine. A quarrel between the old, departed Dana<sup>1</sup> and the Mergenthaler Company made the *Sun*

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<sup>1</sup> [A reference to Charles A. Dana (1819–1897), editor and part owner of the *New York Sun* from 1868 until his death.]

mad. Out of spite, the *Sun* used no Mergenthalers, and later began to introduce upon its premises another type-setting machine. During this whole period the *Sun* was meekly bending its back to the lashes of the Union, as it says itself; and, as itself says, it presently discovered that “the officers of the Union are in the pay of the Mergenthaler Company, and are used by it to force its machine into printing shops.” This is the turning point. It was from that moment that the *Sun* cow changed into a bull. Now, what does this mean?

The Pure and Simple Union is but corn between the upper and nether millstone of capitalist concerns. When these are not at war, the Union is tolerated and submitted to. But just as soon as war breaks out between the two, then the corn of pure and simpledom begins to be ground. According to the *Sun*'s own statements, it appears that it cared not how the Union “outraged” it; but the moment it found out, as it claims, that the fight was between it and another capitalist concern, from that moment the “outrages” of the Union became “intolerable;” in other words, the *Sun* is fighting the Mergenthaler Company over the back of the Union,—Labor in this, as in all other instances, pays the piper.

That Labor can never be really victorious in a fight where it is only used as a cat's-paw is self-evident. Pure and simpledom cannot rise above the cat's-paw rôle. Wipe it out, and place Labor in that dignified attitude where, if there is to be any cat's-paw, not the working class but the capitalist shall fill the pretty rôle.

The S.T. & L.A. to the front, though it crush the bones of every Labor Fakir in the land!

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

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