

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 75.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## LEST WE FORGET.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE “L” disaster which horrified the community on the 11th inst., has, as is usual in the case of such appalling events, created an intense desire to fix the responsibility where it belongs, and to punish those at fault as the results of their blunders or shortcomings demand. This is as it should be, for the spirit that makes for human safety also makes for human happiness, the desideratum upon which all men are agreed. But this very spirit is capable of abuse; it is just as likely to be used to protect the real culprits as it is to bring them to justice, and, should therefore be invoked in an intelligent manner. Especially is this the case in the “L” horror.

What do we witness in connection with this horror? We witness all the capitalist newspapers, from the *Yellow Journal* down or up to the “radiant” *Sun*, seconded by the Social Democratic organ, the *New Yorker Volkszeitung*—all the newspapers, in brief, that last spring denounced the striking “L” and Interborough employes as contract breakers, and upheld the actual violators of the trade agreement entered into between them and the corporations, viz., the Belmont corporations and the organized scabbery of the Civic Federationized A.F. of Hell, and one of these papers, to wit, the *Volkszeitung*, which rewarded the precious Morris Brown for echoing the Gompers cry, by nominating said Brown on the Social Democratic ticket—we witness this contract-smashing scab-breeding gentry endeavoring to profit from the odium then created, to fix the blame of the awful disaster upon one of their own creatures, the “union” locomotive engineer, “scab motorman”, Paul Kelly. In other words, we find this motley crew of intellectual prostitutes in the defense of Capitalism, endeavoring to lay at the door of one of the many workingmen whom they are continually inveigling into the commission of reprehensible acts, under the pretense of promoting “law and order”, “industrial

peace”, etc., the very murders which they aid and abet. Was there ever a more contemptible perversion of the spirit of justice in man?

The moral is obvious: on the heads of the editors and owners of these defenders of the Belmonts and the Gompers, with their contract-breaking scab-breeding corporations and Civic Federationized A.F. of L., rests the odium cast upon Paul Kelly, and the list of dead and injured in the “L” disaster. On their heads should be visited the wrath of the judgment, and not upon that of their unfortunate dupe.

*The People* points with pride to the fact that it was the only newspaper in this city that stood by the Interborough strikers, and that daily, during the strike, decried the creation of the condition of affairs that is now filling the populace with a revulsion of feeling against scabbism and its disastrous results. It alone is without sin and can afford to throw stones. All others deserve the stones.

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

Uploaded March 2008

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