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EDITORIAL

GOOD FOR THESE ETCS.!

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMONG the races that are called “backward” by the agencies of the Civic Federation, the Swedes will ever be found. The “dull Swede”, the “dumb Swede” and many more such terms of opprobrium are bestowed upon the Swedes by the Gompers crew. Some of these gentry are puffed up enough with their own conceit to believe what they say; others know better; but both, whether better informed or not, obey the behests of the Belmont-Parry capitalist interests, in whose interest it is to set race against race, color against color, creed against creed, nationality against nationality, and thus hinder that solidification of the ranks of the Working Class without which the reign of the exploiting capitalist will be eternal. But true to its spirit of inherent contradiction, the Capitalist Class ever itself furnishes the means to give itself the lie. It has just now done so in Sweden.

Tired of being bullrugged by the King and ruling class of Sweden, Norway dissolved the bonds of wedlock with the latter country. The King and ruling class of Sweden threatened gory threats, but almost immediately desisted. What caused them to? Was it Norway’s firm front? Not that. What made them desist was the emphatic stand taken by the alleged “backward” people, the Working Class of Sweden. Unaffected by the claptrap of “patriotism”, unmoved by the myth of “national dignity”, unruffled by the pretense of “national break-down”, unmystified by the cant of “flag and land”—in short, soberly recognizing that a nation has the right to be independent, and soberly realizing that a war with Norway spelt the mutual butchery of the Working Class of the two realms, the Swedish workingmen gave notice that they refused to be intoxicated with “enthusiasm” to lay down their lives for the benefit of their plunderers. They declared plump and plain that they would not go to war. Who among the spouters of “superior” races would have struck so manly, so wise, so noble a posture?—Not one! As hirelings of Capitalism and

beneficiaries of the A.F. of Hell they would promptly have passed the resolutions “handed down” to them.

The two employees of the Volkszeitung Corporation, one of whom is the candidate for Mayor of the Corporation’s party, who at Amsterdam sought to squirt into the Congress the A.F. of Hell spirit of setting up one set of workingmen as superior to another, enumerated some of the “backward” races and covered the unenumerated ones with a broad “Etc.” No doubt the Swedes were embraced in that “Etc.” Good for these “Etc.!” They have given a lesson to the “superior” Volkszeitung Corporation and its party organization, that is run by placemen and beneficiaries of the “superior” A.F. of Hell labor-lieutenants of the Civic Federation.

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

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