



T-Bone Slim

I do not see any difference between the two major platforms—vote for one you vote for all. Both have registered their "say so" and congress, composed of both, proceeds to twindle its thumbs. Before the snow flies Democrats will deny they built a Frankenstein. Republicans will repudiate the steamroller—the octopus will loosen its grip on the people's counterweight and deny all knowledge as to "who belongs to that boodle".—A lot of wealth is going to be without visible ownership and it is expected, the working class will be requested to take charge. To obtain benefit from congress, workers must have a majority in both houses and in supreme court. To obtain benefit from union, workers must have majority "on the job"—a majority of two, the boss being expected to vote no. (I believe in giving the boss a vote—only one vote though—that's how strong I feel this morning. Let him try some of this ballotting business—see how he comes out. Did I hear somebody say "industrial democracy as against industrial slavery?" Might be something to that? Not a bad idea at all! Let me understand this, your idea is to do away with industrial autocracy, is that it? (I won't call it industrial tyranny.) Well, well, well! Send it following Kaiser Bill, Nick the Tsar and Alfonso the Great? Won't that be a red letter day in Labor's history!

The last and worst autocracy, the boss, gets his walking papers but . . .

I'm afraid it would ruin the aristocracy.

Yeah! The mob might vote them a job cracking rock. Now, I don't know how you stand on this: you are either intelligent or ignorant?

All the great statesmen swear up and down you are intelligent and respectfully request you to drop your vote in their box—even naul you to the polls if your hind feet are big and clumsy.

On the other hand the boss says you're just a common dubb and refuses to let you vote in the establishment he runs and that labor built. Not only that, but if you open your trap he will have you condemned to the Siberia of unemployment or to hunt another autocrat to bow to; and your ears better not be sticking up too much.

Which is it, intelligent or ignorant?

If the politicians are wrong, and after

all you're just a nut, then the industrial

autocrats are perfectly within their rights

in denying your voice, vote and volition

in the affairs of production and politicians

have committed the crime against society

by letting you vote on any ticket. But if

the bosses are wrong, and you're a smart

guy, then the politicians have performed

a great service for their country by allow-

ing you to exercise your suffrage and

bosses have committed a crime against

you themselves and society by denying you

the freedom of expression, proposal and

determination through the ballot in indus-

trial matters, establishing thereby indus-

trial slavery.

Statesmen say you're bright, bosses say

you're dull—now which is it?

I feel we ought to have more testimony

on this—those birds have spoken their

piece and it's a tie vote.

I think I'll let Labor vote on this ques-

tion, to break the deadlock and, I have

every confidence in their ability to decide

the question fairly, that is, I don't think

any of them will head for a bughouse.

My personal opinion is the best people

have least brains—a smattering of knowl-

edge on the complex and none at all on

the obvious.

Ratio: it takes a bushel of complex

understanding to make an ounce of wis-

dom—it's light stuff, light gold. Let us

see, where were we at? We were discuss-

ing democracy in the industries, were we

not? Same as democracy in the politics,

were we not? We were.

Well, sir, democracy in politics is only

half the bicycle. Where is the other half?

Ah, brethren and case-hardened sinners,

industrial democracy in the end eclipses

the miles—and to think all these years we

have tried to win this race with a pair of

handle-bars.

All right, let us bring these two to-

gether—it stands to reason, a country

cannot be both autocratic and democratic

and survive the resultant depressions. It's

got to be free or slave—the best people

believe it should be slave, and rip up ev-

ery instrument of enslavement from dis-

franchisement to vagrancy laws.

Labor is yet to be heard from, and when

they get their own big union warmed up,

the slaveholders may learn something to

their benefit.

The plenty for all shall be distributed

to all—and over-expansion shall not be

the means of throwing away substance,

to be followed by an age of up-keep cost

for a useless establishment, a paranoiac's

dream. Sense shall prevail.—T-b S.

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