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# Railway Officials

by Eugene V. Debs

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We have had opportunities recently to be brought in contact with some of our superior officers. The result in all cases have been mutually pleasant and gratifying. The fact was made manifest that they are interested in our work and that they are willing to assist us in performing it. In all cases they received and treated us with cordiality, consideration, and respect. They were not so busy that they could not listen to what we had to say in behalf of our Order. In fact, many of them were anxious to learn all about its condition, and then generously proffered their assistance to the cause. The railroad official who is alive to the interests of the corporation he represents is bound to be our friend. In helping us, he is helping himself, for, surely, the efforts we are making to give him faithful and reliable men are in his interest as well as our own. Railroad officials generally are aware of this fact. They understand that in proportion as we succeed in carrying out our objects, their engineers and firemen will become sober, reliable, and faithful men.

Of course, all railroad officials are not so considerate, and even if they knew that we were toiling to advance their interests, they would not have the candor to admit it. Their hearts are calloused with prejudice and their souls narrowed with selfishness, arrogance, and conceit. But they do not represent the ideal railroad official of today. In fact, they are only fossils and are looked upon as the relic of a past generation. We neither crave nor care for their friendship, for the reason that it is not worth having. We want to deal only with men of warm hearts, broad views, and liberal ideas, and there is no question but that they are rap-

idly supplanting the fossil element. The time is coming when the employer and employee will stand upon basis of equality, so far as their common rights are concerned. There will be kind treatment on the one side and obedience to duty on the other, and the result will be a mutual bond of sympathy and support.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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