

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 115.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1900.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

A TRADES UNION CANDIDATE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“You will notice that all of Joe Flory’s Campaign Buttons are made in Missouri, by workingmen of Missouri, while Mr. Dockery’s Campaign Buttons are made in Newark, N.J.

“I am a Democrat, and always have been one, but men should vote for a brother workman, regardless of politics, especially when the candidate is as deserving as Mr. Flory.”

The above is part of an address issued by the “Workingmen’s Protective League of Missouri.” It advocates the election of Mr. Joseph Flory, Republican, to the office of Governor, and it gives reasons why A.M. Dockery, Democrat, should not be elected. At the head of the leaflet is a copy of Mr. Flory’s card, with his dues paid up to December first. At that time the election is over. The purpose of the leaflet is to prove that the candidate is not a scab, and that in 1883, when the switchmen were out, Mr. Flory simply “doubled up on the work,” and by taking the switchmen’s places in addition to doing his own work, helped to “hold the jobs open” for the switchmen until they won the strike. It was the most wonderful piece of humanity ever brought to light, and is worthy of being called to the attention of organized scabbery everywhere.

Some of the reasons adduced in opposition to A. Dockery are funny, they are pure and simple funny, in fact. He is accused of refusing to ride on a handcar, and therefore must be against the working class. He is also accused of having been in the business of straightening crossed eyes, and so he must be an enemy of the working class. Then there is a howl on his record of lining up against granting to Grand Army men homesteads at the nation’s expense. That is the opposition part.

In favor of Mr. Flory it is said that he has his buttons made in Missouri and consequently he is “in favor of the working class.” He is a union man, and he pays a whole year’s dues in advance whenever he runs for anything. He also kept the jobs for the switchmen while they were on strike by doing their work.

What the “Workingmen’s Protective League of Missouri” is, the leaflet does not say. From former experiences we may rest assured that it is made up of labor scates, labor leaders, political crooks, and beats generally. Its arguments are those of the amateur thief, and its reasoning is that of a beat. After holding its sores up to public view, it passes around the hat and asks a sympathetic public to drop in a few votes for mercy’s sake. Flory, Republican, railroad conductor, and candidate, is indeed worthy of the support of the working class, when he stands on a ticket which was responsible for the slaughter of one hundred men in the state and at the very time he was a workingman. The strike of 1882 gave Flory his opportunity, and his after record in “holding jobs open” shows how he took it.

The workingmen of Missouri owe it as a duty to themselves to smash both Dockery and Flory and vote the Socialist Labor Party ticket from top to bottom.

**Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded October 2005**