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EDITORIAL

“THE PASSING OF PEABODY.”

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THE *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine* for December hails the election of Alva Adams, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate for Governor of Colorado, as “The Passing of Peabodyism.” As the belief reflected in this phrase is not confined to *The Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*, it is worth considering and exposing.

What is Peabodyism? It is an assumption of unconstitutional powers in order to crush the working class. As such Peabodyism is not new: President Cleveland acted on such an assumption when he sent the Federal troops to break the Chicago strike: every court that denies the constitutional rights of the working class acts on the same assumption.

They who believe in “The Passing of Peabodyism” are deceived by appearances. Peabodyism, in its last analysis, flourishes in all its essential features in the leading industrial states of the union, under widely different forms and methods. In Pennsylvania, for instance, one may witness during coal strikes, the same brutal disregard for working class life and rights, as was witnessed in Colorado. The difference in appearance arises from the fact that the capitalist class of Pennsylvania, owing to trustification, is a Unit; in Colorado, it is split into warring factions engaged in a life and death competitive struggle. The result is that in Pennsylvania, the conflict between the militia and judiciary is eliminated. This condition makes the exercise of dictatorial powers by a Peabody in Pennsylvania, unnecessary; but it also, at the same time, makes the commission of unconstitutional outrages upon the working class easy, as witness the shooting of the Hazleton miners by Sheriff Martin, an act that was plainly intended to force working class submission to capitalist exploitation.

“Peabodyism” is not “passing”, but only coming on the scene. The principles it

embodies will flourish as Capitalism flourishes, as they are essential to the preservation of the latter. A change of Governors will not suffice to prevent its spread. Only a change of systems will do that. Capitalism must give way to Socialism.

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