

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 183.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1902.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A**T the reassembling of Congress, Senator {William Ernest} Mason is to introduce a bill “in the interest of the public” so as to give relief in future emergencies of strikes. The plan is simple. So simple that it recalls Columbus’ trick of standing an egg on end. It is to empower the Federal Attorney General, “in the name of the public,” to apply to the courts for the appointment of a receiver, who SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO GET OUT THE COAL AND SELL IT, PAY THE MINERS AND MAKE A PROPER ACCOUNTING THROUGH THE COURTS TO THE OWNERS.

All roads lead to Rome. The old adage here receives as up-to-date as it is a brilliant application.

The “Rome,” which the capitalist class seeks to reach, is amplexness of wealth—for themselves. This is a goal attainable only by the road of keeping the working class down, compelled to labor at a minimum. The common highway towards that “Rome” is becoming less and less passable. Macadamized as it is with the Macadam of the fiction “freedom to labor,” it has become impassable at spots. The Macadam did well at one time, but it has worn out; the wheels of the capitalist wagon sink deep in the puddles that time and weather have worn into the thing. Such an “impasse” occurred last summer when the miners refused to work under the grievous conditions imposed upon them by the operators. As election was on, the miners had an unparalleled opportunity to win out, which is to say, to block the capitalists’ progress to their Rome. But there was another road to Rome, and it was timely seized. With the aid of John Mitchell, the capitalists succeeded in inducing the miners to surrender, and return to work under the identical conditions that they had struck against. The “inducement” was an Arbitration Commission, but that, as is becoming plain even to the blind, was but a blind, it was but

“another road to Rome.”

Now, this road did well enough as an emergency road. But it has many inconveniences. Senator Mason proposes another road, and it certainly will lead to “Rome” with the directness of an arrow. The moment a strike breaks out, the Attorney General applies for, and, of course, obtains a receiver of the concern struck against. The receiver, a FEDERAL OFFICER, BACKED BY ALL THE PHYSICAL FORCE OF THE GOVERNMENT, then proceeds to run the concern and PAY THE WORKERS,—what workers? Why, those who will work under the conditions struck against. Not for nothing will that receiver be a Federal functionary, with all the Armies and Navies and Courts of the Nation at his call.

What Mitchell will now arise to serve as a Labor sign-post, and point out this Mason road to the Working Class, and thus again switch them from the forthright of Socialism?

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded October 2006