

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

The Battle Between Labor & Capital

Mike Sonksen · Wednesday, August 30th, 2017

Back before the 8-hour workday,
back before the living wage,
children worked in factories,
they worked in the Gilded Age.

The government didn't care;
they called it laissez faire.
Workers were dying in factories,
children died of lead poisoning.

Herein lies the setting:
the battle between Labor & Capital.
The great upheaval of 1886
How the Other Half Lives.
People of the Abyss
The Country almost went Socialist.

The Gilded Age set the stage;
recall the Robber Barons:
fat boys getting fatter
hungry ones stay in line
Rockefellers getting richer,
keep it moving down the line.
Robbers Controlled the Currency,
barons controlled the Country.

Harrison Gray Otis,
the Publisher of the LA Times
didn't care about Workers Rights;
that's why the
LA Times building
did it's dance with dynamite.

They called it The Crime of the Century.
The shot heard around the world.
It was a response to poverty,

a response to dying little girls.

The Struggle for Justice
 inspired social awakening.
 Mother Mary Jones organized Progressives
 she gathered the underdogs.
 Tired of toxic meat,
 tired of industrial danger,
 tired of Twelve-hour shifts,
 tired of child labor.

Coal miners called labor strikes
 unafraid of facing fights
 they believed in an Eye for an eye,
 they even used Dynamite!

Two Thousand Seventeen
 the Gilded Age again
 Bills piling up & families are hoping,
 to rescue their homes from foreclosure.

Libertarian fountainheads
 put profit over public interest
 merchants of Doubt
 reapers of Dividends
 Americans for Prosperity
 manipulators of Public Opinion
 teaching false history
 just to justify greed;
 masses manipulated by moguls
 owners of oil companies.

School windows are always broken
 students are always throwing bricks
 force-fed the state standards;
 force-fed the censorship.

If it weren't for a guilty verdict
 of the McNamara Brothers,
 a Socialist named Job Harriman
 would have become LA's Mayor.
 500 Socialists were elected
 across the nation by Autumn 1911.

A century later the struggle continues,
 progressives still organize strikes,
 the struggle for justice will never be broken
 workers will always fight for their rights!

Photo: The aftermath of the LA Times building, following the 1910 bombing that killed 21 and

injured many more.

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