

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## TWO MEASURES.

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**W**HEN, due to the employer's negligence to keep his machinery in safe condition, a workman is injured, and he brings suit for damages, forthwith the Rep-Dem political agents of the employer strain to find some pretext or other on which they can hang a charge of "contributory negligence" against the injured workingman. Ingenuity is then set to do its utmost. Reasons are dug from under ground to make out a case of "contributory guilt" on the part of the victim, so that the employer may get off unmulcted, and the injured worker may get off with his hurt. That is one measure. The working class is now being treated to the spectacle of the other measure, the one applied to the capitalist.

Wiskar, the engineer whose train caused the wreck in the New York Central tunnel, may have been negligent. The theory may be granted. But how about the Company's contribution to the accident? On that head there can be no theory. The facts are undisputed. The danger signals were obscured. The smoke and steam of passing trains did the obscuring. They were the cause of previous accidents, and had been so pointed out, and not later than last summer the Grand Jury made a presentment severely arraigning the Company for the state it kept the tunnel in. Other railroads, the Pennsylvania among them, also go through tunnels. They had removed the source of greatest danger. The presentment of the Grand Jury last summer pointed to the necessity of electric power in the tunnel. And yet the needed change was not made. Messrs. Newman and W.K. Vanderbilt, of the Board of Directors of the Company, deign to leave their banquet table long enough to inform the public that they "have been making a thorough study of improved motive power for THE LAST THREE WEEKS"—despite the Grand Jury's presentment being at least ten times as many weeks ago, and in the face of all this the announcement is already brazenly made that "the findings will show that the Company employed all

the usual safeguards in modern railroad operations"! In other words the palpable contribution of the Company to the recent tunnel horror is being brushed aside, and, as if to accentuate the fact, Wiskar, the engineer, who may or may not have been negligent, and whose personal record removes all theories that would make negligence on his part likely, he is locked up in "Murderers' Row" in the Tombs; and while that possible wrong-doer is treated in that way, the unquestionable contributors to the horror, the Company's magnates, are free and indulging in banquets! That is the other measure.

Given the Capitalist System of Society, there is a ruled and a ruling class, a fleeced and a fleecing class. Evidences of the fact are numerous. The latest is the shocking difference in the treatment that the Rep-Dem-Fused Administration has for the possibly guilty Wiskar, and his certainly guilty employers.

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