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"OUR GENE"

E. V. Debs, Labor's Trusted Leader, Speaks to Thousands at Duluth and Superior.

Sylvester Keliher also Talks to the Masses in Language that Cannot be Misunderstood.

Two of the Nation's Greatest Statesmen.

Wednesday night was organized labor's night, and in spite of the cold weather and chilly atmosphere of the car barn, the demonstration in honor of the Woodstock heroes was one of the most memorable of this remarkably enthusiastic campaign.

The parade had been very sparingly advertised, nevertheless 500 or 600 union men were in line, and their stentorian cheers were indicative of the cheerful alacrity with which they will cast their votes in November against Hanna's little Mac.

About five thousand voters were in attendance at the barn and their enthusiasm was hearty and continuous. Sylvester Keliher was the first speaker and he made one of those rousing brilliant speeches for which he is becoming famous. Dealing with the principles and events that bear upon the interests and welfare of the people in a logical and forcible manner.

Mr. Debs was listened to with rapt attention. Not a word was lost, and the bursts of applause that came at frequent intervals not only were expressive of the appreciation by the audience of the thought and eloquence of the orator, but also of its personal admiration of this man—a giant in intellect among his fellows—a leader able to stand comparison with the foremost men of the race and generation, and withal of such binding magnetism, such tender sympathy, such lofty and inspiring sentiment that his incarceration in the Woodstock dungeon forces itself upon the thinking mind as the most powerful indictment, the most convincing evidence of the corruption and brutal tyranny of the corporate despotism that now dominat American institutions.

The enthusiasm continued all during the meeting, and it testified the great esteem in which Eugene V. Debs is held by the workingmen. The audience was composed largely of workingmen, and nineteen out of twenty were voters. A remarkable feature of the meeting was the earnestness of the audience. When Mr. Debs was speaking, except when his eloquence aroused a roar of applause, the audience was so quiet that the slightest noise, aside from the speaker's voice, was painfully audible. Debs was speaking truths, and they struck each of his auditors to his inmost consciousness. No charge of anarchy could obliterate the facts that Debs lay before his hearers. He pictured the triumph of plutocracy and its absorption of the wealth of the country, and the conditions which they are asked to forestall with their ballots. Small wonder was it that they were in earnest, and smaller wonder was it that they cheered the speaker, and still smaller will be the wonder when they cast their votes—not against the wealthy, but against the abstract plutocracy which the wealthy represent.

D. D. McInnis, president of the Union Men's Towne club, acted as chairman, and introduced the speakers.

Sylvester Kelliher, secretary of the American Railway union, was the first speaker. After thanking the audience for its magnificent demonstration, he said: "The American people are today engaged in the greatest campaign in the history of the republic. It is not only the most important, but the most unique in the history of the country. I am not here to talk to you as a partisan. I ask you all, as you love liberty, as you desire to perpetuate free institutions, to lay aside your prejudice and party feeling, and to come in close contact with us and reason with us as to the great problems before us for solution.

"I believe that on Nov. 3 the people have their last opportunity to settle and change the condition of crushed and ground humanity, (applause) like peaceable beings. I ask you as American citizens to pause, think, investigate and be sure you understand these problems before you vote. Bradstreet and Dun say that 97 per cent of the business men of the country fail. That means thousands driven by bankruptcy to the increasing ranks of the unemployed. Multiplied millions are today suffering for the necessaries of life. When such conditions exist is it not time to get down to a solemn investigation of the causes of the trouble in a nation where everyone should not only have the necessaries, but some of the comforts of life. There is something wrong when our producing power is so great and thousands are driven by want to degradation and crime. We have from 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 out of employment, American citizens pleading to the powers that be for an opportunity to earn an honest living for themselves and their loved ones. I say that in a nation where we have an abundance of the riches of nature, more than plenty for all, where there is so much suffering, so many crushed and ground in the greed for gain, something must be wrong.

"I take it, after investigation, that the whole trouble lies in the fact that the millions produce wealth while the tens have it. Forty years ago the slave power predominated, today it is capitalism. At that time George William Curtis said that slavery sat in the White House and made our laws. Substitute capitalism for slavery and his words describe our condition today. (Applause.) The money power enters the front door of the White House and compels the president to issue bonds so that capital can wring the substance out of the common people, and when they object, this power orders out the standing army to crush them with powder, bullets and bayonets. The one man who had the courage to fight against the oppression of labor, Eugene V. Debs—(tumultuous applause)—was placed behind prison bars.

"I believe that since the campaign opened and the agitation reached from the millionaire to the miner's pit, other and more important questions than the money question have arisen. I believe that tonight a question confronts the laboring man which overshadows all others. It is a question not of whether we shall have free silver, but whether we shall have free men. (Applause.) The great corporations of the country are not satisfied to purchase the lives and labor, the brain and brawn of American manhood, but they now request you to deliver at the same time your American citizenship. They want not only your labor, but your vote. The man who says there is no intimidation either does not know what he is talking about or he is misrepresenting the facts. Within a few weeks I have talked with 2000 railroad men who dared not meet as we meet tonight, who are forced to join McKinley clubs and sup-