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To the arm and hammer, a song for May day ... Joseph C. Borden, Jr. Copyright 1898.

To the Arm and Hammer A SONG FOR MAY DAY

When will you strike, O uplifted Hammer? When will that blow come forcefully down? When will your might proclaim the red banner, Uniting the workers, black, white, yellow, brown?

When will your power end humbug forever? When will your strength come into its own? When will your impact, the fall of the lever, Give notice that Labor is ruling alone?

Not till the Arm is awakened to action, Not till the muscles have followed the brain, Not till the sinews receive the reaction Impelled by an urge to circumvent pain .

When will class conflict cease cursing our country? When will Democracy see a new dawn? When will all labor, on farm and in factory, Get full compensation, for brain and for brawn?

Not till the mass of the people awaken, Not till they see what causes all greed, Not till this system itself is so shaken That Labor for safety must see itself freed:

Not till the belts of the workers are tightened, Not till the meaning of Marx is in view, Not till the legions of Labor, enlightened By Socialist teachings, know what to do:

Not till they learn the need of the hour, Not till they've finished with pension and dole, Not till the knowledge of organized power Reaches the workers and shows them the goal .

So come, all you Comrades, on time-honored May Day, Celebrate gayly the Future of Man, Resolved in your purpose: it's more than a play-day— 'Tis time to proclaim the Industrial Plan .

" Unite, O workers!" said Daniel De Leon. "Unite on the job in organized might And vote to establish the glorious eon When peace follows plenty as day follows night ."

— Joseph C. Borden, Jr .

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