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EDITORIAL

AN IDEAL COUNTRY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MARK Hanna, in a double column, double-leaded article in the Canton, Ohio, *Repository* says:—"Your country gives you tremendous benefits—It guards your home, your family, holds up high ideals for you and your children." Great is protection, and great is the "home" as the class of Hanna makes it.

From yesterday's New York *Times* we extract the following headlines:—"Many Void Indictments of Scannell and Others." "Would Oust the Entire Louisiana Delegation. Suggestion That No Legal Election Can Be Held Under The State's New Constitution." "Heinrich Conried Robbed." "Princeton Burglar Captured." "Shot a Hallboy Twice." "A Kentuckian Arrested." "Charged a Fellow-Boarder with Stealing \$500." "Boston Murderer Shortly Must Die." "Devery Faces the Court." "Capt. Gannon's Indictment." "Bissert's Appeal Dismissed." "Dr. O'Hanlon Blames Police. Says Mutilated Bodies Are Sent to the Morgue with No History of the Wounds." "Divorce Popular in Providence." "National Sabbath Alliance Protests Against Open Saloons." "Little Money for Those Injured in the Northfield Disaster." "Corner in Tin Collapses." "Ellen Duff in Court." "Captain Chapman Makes a Raid." "Saved Negro from Crowd." "Many Mendicants Arrested." "Department Store's Creditors Take Action." "Colonel Mead's Case in the Court's Hands." "Contractor George Fruh Arrested on Charge of Forgery." "Ticket Speculator Marks Fined." "Dale Inquest Thursday." "Max Hochstim on Trial."

That is what the *Times*, which has "all the news that's fit to print," gives its readers. It occupies about half of the news space. The headlines indicate that society is a seething mass of crime and corruption, and the news stories more than bear this out. There is everything from petty larceny to murder, from a mere panhandler to a wholesale thief.

The *Sun*, of the same date, has a few other things, but the *Sun*'s stories are more extended because it gives all the news that isn't fit to print.

Those items have among them the following: "Shot in the Abdomen." "Preacher Fled From Pulpit. Two Men with Revolvers Caused Him to Jump Out of the Window." "Mrs. Bonine's Defence." "Bank Teller Missing." "Catholic Relics Stolen." "Resists Extradition." "Grand Jury System is Rotten." "\$300 for Services to a Dog. Springfield, Ohio, Woman to Pay That Sum to a Surgeon as a Fee." "One of Chinatown's Wrecks. End of 'Blowser Annie,' Who, by Common Repute was Once Beautiful." "Died in a Midwife's House." "Twice Foiled in Suicide." "Girl Diamond Thief." "Alleged Cadet Defies Court." "Won't Fight Texas Anti-Trust Law." "No New Trial for Woman Murderer." "Sugar Trust Exempt." "Louisiana Licence Tax Declared to be Unconstitutional." "Gone West After Stealing." "Preacher Held for Bigamy." "Ended Her Life with Gas." "Two Die of Gas." "Former Millionaire, Held in Boston for Debt, is Released." "He Lives by Marrying." "Bank Clerk Goudie Caught." "Its Big Charter Hocked." "Pastor Wants His Piano Back. Instalment House Took it While He was Away from Home." "To Keep Up Freight Rates in 1902." "Rush to Retire Circulation. Banks Want to Get Their Governments and Sell Them."

The news of the day tells a direful tale of protection, and a direful tale of how the home is honored and respected. Every one of those crimes, of which the newspaper is the ever increasing catalog, can be traced to the capitalist system, of which Mr. Hanna is a gold-framed masterpiece. The activity of the government is the activity of a morgue wagon that carts away the dead.

Monday there were over thirty girls arrested in New York alone for being inmates of disorderly houses—and the capitalist system makes the disorderly house a necessity. The New York papers only give fragments of the day's history. From other papers, published here, there could be culled as many more local crimes. Were all the papers of the country to be taken, and were all the crimes to be strung out, it would make a list long enough to hang capitalism higher than the first fixed star.

But chronicled crime is not the most extensive, nor the most glaring. There is the legalized crime, the crime for which Mr. Hanna wishes to have the protection of all the powers of government. That sort of crime would make a list even longer than the one which the papers give.

There is but one cure for crime, and its concomitant misery, and that is Socialism. There is but one party that can and will bring Socialism about, and that is the Socialist Labor Party.

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