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EDITORIAL

TWO SETS OF TABLES.

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FROM under the shadow of Trinity Church—the church that keeps time for Wall street—there has proceeded a table, or rather map, 35x26 inches, intended to portray in figures “OUR” phenomenal progress. The map looks like an astronomical table: so long are the figures. They set out in detail “Nine years’ balances of trade, coin and bullion.” The several subdivisions are summed up in this table:

Excess of Exports.

Merchandise	\$3,534,700,224
Silver	248,102,940
Gold	100,198,194
Coin and Bullion	<u>147,904,745</u>
Total Excess of Exports	\$4,030,906,103

Taking these figures at their word, also taking the argument at its word, the two indicate, as the legend that heads the map sets out, that the country’s affluence is phenomenal. That much for one of the two sets of tables.

The other set of tables is taken from the vital statistics of the Twelfth Census. Before turning to that, the thinking human mind is set by the first set of tables a-going along certain lines of thought. What is wealth for but for life’s sake? Increase of wealth must, if useful, go hand in hand with increased lease of life. The material affluence of the land, shown by the first set of tables, must, accordingly, be reflected by the material well-being of the people: as the material affluence is phenomenal, phenomenal also must be the people’s material well-being: life must be longer, the death rate smaller than before. A glance at the second set of tables almost blinds the eye with a paradox. The tables for

the registration area, comprising Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont, show an INCREASED death rate over the figures for 1890. The tables for the population engaged in manufacturing and mechanical industries, comprising twenty-six industries, reveal a marked increase in the death rate for nineteen of these, the increase in the death rate being greatest among the millers, cigarmakers, brewers, tailors, carpenters and joiners, blacksmiths, masons and painters. The tables for the population engaged in agriculture, transportation and other outdoor occupations, comprising ten industries, reveal an increased death rate among all the ten but two. As to the miners and quarrymen, the tables reveal a higher death rate between the ages of 15 and 44, that is to say, for over 80 per cent. of the number. On the other hand, the table for personal service, including policemen and detectives, is the only one that records a uniform decrease in the death rate. Nor yet is that all. The tables of mortality by ages and occupations show that more than 47 per cent. of the population engaged in manufacturing and mechanical industries and in agriculture, transportation, etc., die between the ages of 25 and 44, while the percentage of those who reach 65 and over is trifling!

Are these two sets of tables contradictory? No! Joining the two, they throw upon the canvas the fact that the "OUR" in "our phenomenal progress" does not include the working class. That this class is not a participant in "our" progress; that its share in "our progress" is the share of the gladiators in Rome. As the gladiator's share in "our enjoyment" in Rome was to bleed and lay his life down for the fleecing and ruling class, so the share of the American working class in "our progress" is to die plentifully and prematurely.

The two sets of tables supplement each other. The picture they throw is a summons to the men of heart and fibre, of brain and brawn in the land to gather around the standard of the Socialist Labor Party and uproot the iniquity.

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

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