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EDITORIAL

THE CAPITALIST STATE.

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BEFORE us lies a circular just issued by the National Food Manufacturers' Association to manufacturers and distributors of food, urging affiliation for the purpose of securing, through the Congress of the United States, the passage of a proper National Food Law. The circular declares that a National Food Law is imminent, but it doubts that the law will be a good one, and it states its reasons for its doubts by emphasizing the circumstance that "the Senators and Representatives do not understand the difficulties with which the producer of food products is confronted", moreover, the circular proceeds to explain, "some of the questions involved are of a scientific nature, and difficult for anyone not familiar with the production of food to understand", hence, it concludes that "it is not reasonable to expect" a practicable and sensible law from Congress unless the Senators and Representatives be lectured upon the subject. The conclusion is correct, but little does the National Food Manufacturers' Association dream what the real import of its argument is. It is safe to say that were the Association to be told that the Capitalist State, meaning the Capitalist Government, means Political Government, and that Political Government has to-day no purpose other than a weapon of oppression by the Capitalist Class against the Working Class—it is safe to say that were the Association told that, it would bristle up in denial. And yet, it is that very tenet of Socialism that the Association's argument furnishes additional, convincing proof of.

He who says mass organization, says central directing body. The latter flows unavoidably from the former. But the "central directing body" is not identical under all circumstances and social systems. The "central directing body" is the exact shadow or reflex of social conditions. Wherever society is divided into an exploiting class and an exploited class, there is a ruling and a ruled class; and this fact is, in

turn, reflected in the rise and existence of a “central directing body” whose function is not productive but oppressive, not administrative but political. Such is the Capitalist State. What has the National Food Manufacturers’ Association said, touching the unfitness of the Senators and Representatives in Congress to administer the production of food, that does not equally apply to the gentlemen’s qualification to administer the nation’s transportation, its mining, its building, its clothing, its shoeing and all its requisite productive branches, down to the least of these? In all the other requisite productive branches of the nation there are, as in the branch of food, “difficulties”, questions of “scientific nature”, in short, matters of technical knowledge, with which the personnel of the Capitalist Government are unfamiliar, and upon which, accordingly, “it is not reasonable to expect” them to act with safety or intelligently. Upon all of these, everybody knows, the Senators and Representatives must regularly be coached—just the same as the National Food Manufacturers’ Association prove that those officials require coaching on the administration of the food branch. Being admittedly useless in the administration of production, what are the gentlemen there for?—to give visible body to the Capitalist State, in other words, to keep the exploited, the ruled, the Working Class by force in the condition of wage-slavery.

The National Food Manufacturers’ Association has not lived in vain. Its circular is a “blabbing out of school.” By illustrating the superfluousness and even dangerousness of the Capitalist or Political State in the administration of production, it has contributed its mite to add elasticity to the step, and kindle enthusiasm in the breasts of the Revolutionary Army of Labor that is now drilling to overthrow the Political and supplant it with the Administrative State. With no subject, because no exploited, class under its banner, the “central directing body” that the Social Revolution carries in Her womb will have no Political, but only Administrative functions to perform; it will have no class to keep under, consequently, its thoughts need not turn around means and ways of oppression; its functions will be exclusively productive, consequently, it can “reasonably be expected” to act with safety, and intelligence. In short, it will consist of a representation of men who are themselves respectively familiar with all the nation’s industries, men who need no “coaching.”

The framework of that “central directing body” of a civilized people was set up in Chicago last June-July by the Industrial Workers of the World. “Wherever McGregor sits, there is the head.” The day is at hand when the seat of that body will be the seat of the Nation’s Government. On that day the seat of Political Government at Washington, together with its subsidiary props, the seats of Political Government in the several States, will crumble like a child’s card-house. The Socialist Labor Party blazes the way for that new central directing body, the central directing body of the emancipated Working Class, of a civilized nation, the central directing power of the Socialist Republic.

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