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EDITORIAL

OUR CIVIL SERVICE PROLETARIAT.

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EVIDENTLY, even the Collector of the Port of New York, Loeb, Roosevelt's former private secretary, has a mission to fulfill in the scheme of the Labor or Socialist Movement.

Collector of the Port of New York Loeb has been drastically reducing the salaries in his department and also "cleaning it of 'deadwood.'" The prompt response to this was that fully 2,000 of the United States civil service employes of this city crowded the Grand Central Palace on the 20th of this month to consider the problem of how they and their fellow Government employes throughout the country are to be provided for in case they lose their position{s} through sickness or old age. Among these was Jake Riley, 85 years old, a veteran of the Mexican war, whose salary as Night Inspector in the Custom House was \$1,095 and has been reduced to \$720.

Ten to one that out of these Government civil service employes hardly any realized his class condition. Ten to one hardly one of these wage slaves took himself for a wage slave, along with the other wage slaves of the land. Ten to one hardly one of these employes realized the fact that the Government which employed him is the representative of the identical class which harries the industrial wage slaves, and, consequently, that that Government would not treat its employes differently from the manner that the private capitalist employer does.

The civil service employes of our capitalist Government have been living in a fool's paradise. Collector of the Port Loeb has wakened them up. At least he has done his part to wake them up.

The wage slave employe of the capitalist class in the industrial and mechanical and all other useful occupations renders valuable services to the Nation. Without these workers the Nation would collapse. This notwithstanding, their earnings are

small; and in case of sickness or old age they are confronted with the identical problem that now confronts the civil service employes.

Recent events in France drove the postal and telegraph employes of the Government to act upon lines identical with those of the industrial proletariat. The move has gone far to cause the former to realize their kinship with the latter. Nor can the ultimate effect of this awakening be a matter of doubt. Collector of the Port Loeb is rendering to the civil service employes of America a similar service. It remains to be seen whether they will profit thereby; drop their superstition of being above the proletariat; strike hands with their fellow industrial wage slaves in other pursuits; and jointly overthrow a social system that needs the wretchedness of the proletariat to live upon, and, when these are squeezed dry, casts them into the social garbage barrel to be dumped into eternity like so many squeezed lemons, or so much “deadwood.”

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