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EDITORIAL

WE MOVE TO AMEND.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A COMMITTEE of three, appointed by Branch Palo Alto, Calif., of the Socialist party, addresses the Socialists of the world urging them to participate in the coming Exposition in San Francisco, where, altho' Socialists have nothing to exhibit, they should have a thing or two to expose.

While, the address wittily sets forth, the Socialists "are perhaps not rich enough to secure sufficient space for a railroad accident, or a mine disaster to show how greedy money interests endanger the lives of human beings, for no other purpose than securing profits, by running trains on outworn rails over rotten ties, or digging coal and other minerals from very insufficiently ventilated subterranean regions," nevertheless, the address expresses the opinion that it will be possible to give the present system quite an expose, for instance, "a carefully analyzed exhibition of the poisonous food and drink which are being sold under 'Pure Food Laws' in all parts of the world," besides "successfully attacking other lines of 'legitimate business.'"

The amendment we move is to add to the list of exposes:

1. The inside of a shop equipped with dangerous machinery in which workingmen, women and children are unsanitarily crowded without even proper protection to life and limb;—and the same O.K.'d by a factory inspector with the A.F. of L. Union Card in his pocket.

2. The inside of a miner's shack, with the miner coming in to his family with a thin "checked-off" pay envelope representing one-tenth the wealth he produced, and, beside that shack, the palatial residence of a Divine-Grace Baer, surrounded with the accumulated plunder of nine-tenths the miners' product;—and a picture of John Mitchell above the show.

3. The public wards of hospitals with workingmen suffering of lead poison; match factory women suffering of sulphur poisoning; children suffering of tubercu-

losis through improper home ventilation and food; and as many more instances of “trade diseases” as can be crowded in the space allowed by the Exposition, and nearby rotund capitalists and capitalistesses whom to serve the contiguous exhibits of workers were crippled;—and a picture of a Civic Federation banquet with Gompers at it.

4. The stoking deck of an ocean liner where stokers drop exhausted with work and the heat, and, above that, on the promenade deck the “gymnastic room” where idle capitalists “exercise” themselves upon electrically operated “horses” so as to get up an appetite;—with the O.K. of the Militia of Christ.

5. A railroad roundhouse with its underpaid toilers, and a picture of Anna-Gould-Castellane-Sagan’s red marble palace, practically crimsoned with the squeezed-out blood of the Gould roads’ employees; and a charter of the Socialist party’s pronouncement that the A.F. of L. is “nobly waging the class struggle.”

6. A picture of the resolutions against the Civic Federation that were presented to S.P. conventions, and were voted down, or summarily laid upon the table.

Etc.; Etc.; Etc.; Etc.

Our purpose in proposing the amendment is to prevent the impression gaining ground that the S.P. is a silk-stockings reform affair, out only for votes as pedestal for posers, and “writers of books” to exploit.

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