

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 45.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1900.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## JUGGING A JUGGLER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**he *Commercial Gazette* of Pittsburg, Pa., in a labored attempt to bamboozle the wage-workers does some skilful juggling with figures and asks blandly: “Are not wages higher than ever?”

NO! Wages are NOT higher than ever. On the contrary, wages are lower both actually and relatively than ever. All the juggling with the figures and the talk of the increase in nominal wages may hoodwink those whom the Gompers brand of ratty labor fakirs batten on, and the result of this jugglery may be useful to the same traitors when they “point with pride” to what their pure and simple man-traps have accomplished. But men who think and observe for themselves will see through the trick.

Wages is the share the worker receives out of the wealth which his labor produces. Wages is also the name given to the price paid to the workingman for the only thing he has to sell—his labor power. The worker does not receive his wages in articles, such as food, clothing, etc., he gets it in the form of money, but in the final analysis, his actual wages are the food, clothes, shelter, etc., which he buys with his earnings.

When the *Commercial Gazette* seeks to delude the workers into the belief that their wages are higher than before, it talks glibly of an advance from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day. Now, it is notorious that the price of what the wage-worker has to buy always goes up before the money price of his labor-power, his wages, go up, but this is not all.

A wage-worker who has work 300 days in the year at \$2.00 per day makes \$600; advance his wages per day to \$3.00 and cut down his working days to 200 and he only makes \$400. So, as the figure-twister never mentions the jump in price of what the workingman must buy, he also forgets to mention the decrease in the number of working days.

Every labor-saving machine throws wage-workers out of work. The method of doing this varies. Sometimes the worker is cut adrift entirely, sometimes he is

retained and worked one-third or one-half as many days as formerly. The wage-workers in mill, mine, factory, railroad and farm, have experienced this intensely in the past twenty years and the process is still going on.

Of the actual wages: bread, meat, clothes, and comforts of life, the worker receives less than ever. The relative share, that is, the share he receives compared to the increased amount of wealth his labor produces over what it produced in the past, is a great deal smaller, and the share he receives compared with what he received in the past can be told by reading the United States census reports for 1850 and 1890; in 1850 the wage-worker got \$67 out of every hundred and in 1890 \$17.

NO! and again No! Wages are not higher than ever before. Actually and relatively they are lower than ever before, and all the juggling with figures by the paid lackeys of the Rep-Dem press, and all the boasting of the Labor Fakirs will not conceal the fact that wages are sinking lower and will continue to sink so long as the brigands of capitalism own the machinery which the workers must use, and which the rat labor fakir is there to induce the workingman to leave in the hands of his fleecers.

As easily as these jugglers are juggled will the Socialist Labor Party in power jug their capitalistic paymasters.

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

**Uploaded June 2005**