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EDITORIAL

LIVING STATISTICALLY.

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LONG has the working class of America been put to the task of making their actual earnings tally with the earnings that the census and other such mills of capitalist misinformation were grinding out for them,—on paper. Their noses were so perpetually held down to the task that they finally accommodated themselves to “statistics,” in lieu of bread, and they, that is to say, the scabby crew of labor fakirs and capitalist spokesmen, gloried in the “statistical increases,” while the rank and file meekly submitted to accepting actual vacancy, endorsed by “statistics,” in their purses as a substitute for wages. The workers had been paid “statistically.” Having succeeded so well in adulterating the sugar of wages with the sand of statistics, Messrs. capitalist officials have taken a step further. The working class of the land is now to live statistically; matters not how many of them die, and how prematurely, statistics are now being substituted for life; and, in the good old capitalist politician style, which votes the dead to carry elections, the hecatombs of Labor are to be statistically made living beings. The census now came out with statistics to show that the death rate has declined ten per cent.

Even the most casual observer must have been struck with the absence of grey-heads in the ranks of the working class. Among the capitalists these are numerous. Why? The death rate among the workers is formidable. Only an infinitesimal percentage of these has a chance to reach old age. Drained by excessive toil from early age; put to work under conditions that smack of Algerine prison pens; never allowed to keep a share of their own product sufficient to even remotely recuperate the life-tissues consumed in such toil; and in large numbers killed outright by “accidents” in mills and yards, the ranks of the working class have been decimated in early manhood. As a matter of fact, the “cross bones and skull” has become a permanent symbol in the homes of the workers. Despite all suppressions of information on the subject, the slaughter of the workers at work peeps out with

sufficient regularity and with such increased frequency as to establish the fact that the industrial field is a charnel house for the toilers of the land.

But what of it all! “Statistics”—that court-plaster that heals the wounds of a decreasing rate of earnings—“Statistics,” neatly compounded and concocted, are now to serve as a court-plaster to heal the wounds of Death and to substitute Life.

Let the workers rejoice! Are their members brought home on shutters, killed by factory and other such negligence? Never mind! The census statistics “prove” that the deceased are alive. Are their members consigned to early graves by reason of improper nourishment from early childhood, due to miserable earnings? Never mind! The census statistics prove that their lives are ten per cent longer.

Surely the statistical flim-flam has reached its apogee; and likewise has reached its apogee confidence of the capitalist class in the workers’ readiness to be flim-flammed.

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

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