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EDITORIAL

THE PATRIOT SHOW.

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AS announced in these columns and other dailies the manufacturers of Lynn, Mass., have arranged to bring 200 or 300 Armenians to take the places of the striking S.T. & L.A. morocco workers. The move, whether successful or not, once more places on exhibition the Capitalist Patriot.

The definition of "patriotism" as the last refuge of the scoundrel was the most felicitous of definitions. It is confirmed at every turn. The Lynn manufacturers belong to the class that rolls "patriotism" in its mouth as a favorite tid-bit. What the word stands for with them, and what it is meant to do, this latest Lynn episode betrays.

When the capitalist wraps himself in the mantle of "Americanism," he means thereby his pocket; when he sets up "patriotism," he means his stomach; when he goes into hysterics about "preserving the country," he means himself. In view of the fact that his pocket, his stomach and himself are kept warm and can be kept warm only in the measure that he skins his employees, and in view of the further fact that for every such skinner there are scores of skinned, it follows, as night follows day, that the "Americanism" or "patriotism" of the American capitalist is synonymous with the country's ruination. The contemplated move in Lynn brings the fact out clearly.

Are the 200 or 300 Armenians, who are proposed to be brought in to scab it on the Alliance men, meant to be introduced into the country for the purpose of enabling them to become "sharers in our superior comforts"? No, indeed. They are to be brought in for the purpose of rendering those "superior comforts," said to be enjoyed by the American workingmen, more problematical than they already are: they are to be brought in for the purpose of directly lowering "American standards."

Moreover, in this as in all other instances of wrong-doing, the wrong done ever breeds further wrong. What sort of citizenship does such conduct build up among the imported aliens? Is it a devoting citizenship? No! What conception of civic

virtue, as understood by Americans, does such conduct, indulged in by American capitalists, instill into the alien minds? The worst imaginable. The factories become the nurseries of baseness, of cynicism; and when, to-morrow, the same trick is practised on the present aliens by means of a new batch, a feeling of deep resentment is placed in the breasts of the old, and is intensified by the added insult of “foreigner,” “un-American,” that the capitalist will then hurl at his awakened dupes.

The capitalist “Patriot” is a traitor to the country and to the human race.

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

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