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EDITORIAL

## THE “STRENUOUS LIFE.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**V**ICE-PRESIDENT Roosevelt is busy again grooming himself for any honors that may be “thrust upon him,” and for any honors that he may be able to thrust upon himself.

Monday, according to belated reports, the Vice-President put in a day at hard labor: he breakfasted from 8.30 to 11; spoke 20 minutes; lunched from 3 until 6; rested from 6 until 8; and dined from 8 until 10.45. It almost breaks one’s heart to think of how many more hours a day this man puts in at work than the ordinary laborer puts in.

The knight of the pick and shovel arises at 5; breakfasts from 5.10 to 5.18; walks to work; dallies for five hours with his instruments; delves in the mysteries of the full dinner pail from 12 to 12.22; wastes 8 minutes in idle slumber; returns to his pastime for 5 more hours; walks home; and dines from 6.30 to 6.55. Then, with his hands stiff from toil, his back tired and aching, his brain faint from stooping, instead of writing books, he creeps off to bed so that he can do it all over again.

The trouble with the working class is that its members do not work anywhere nearly as hard as do the members of the capitalist class. Few, if any workers are tied to the dining table eight and one-quarter hours a day. They have not the intellect, the ambition, the physical stamina to stand this strenuous life. That calls for a higher order of beings, and Vice-President Roosevelt, despite the calls already made upon his system, still shows that he is one of them.

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

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