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EDITORIAL

“KNOCK OUT DROPS” FOR LABOR.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Capitalist Class knows no economics but those that tend to perpetuate the system of exploitation which enslaves labor for its profit. Economics, in the hands of the professors and educators, whom the capitalist class subsidizes and dominates, is not an honest attempt to set forth the facts regarding the production and distribution of wealth, but a plea, an apology, and a defense of the private ownership of land and capital—a means wherewith to uphold the capitalist system and the capitalist class. The workingmen who drink of the economics thus taught, imbibe a mental poison that makes them oblivious of the processes of their own robbery and degradation, just as a man drinking “knock out drops,” imbibes that which renders him unconscious of the methods whereby his wealth is stolen and his existence jeopardized.

At present, the members of the capitalist class are very anxious to teach the working class “economics.” An ever growing army of discontent and revolt, is assailing their class interests and privileges, necessitating a defensive movement for the protection of both. To these ends, a department of “industrial economics,” with President Eliot of Harvard, as its head, was organized at the recent meeting of the Civic Federation. The person suggesting Eliot as the head of the department for the preparation of concoctions wherewith to befuddle labor and render it insensible to its own rights and duties, was the Hon. Sam Gompers. His is the credit of naming as a teacher of the working class, a man whom he has denounced as one of its enemies.

Fortunately for the working class, and the progress of the race, which is dependent on it, the poison of capitalist “economics,” like most poisons, has its antidotes. The capitalist system itself is one of them. The economics of Socialism, founded on the teachings of orthodox economics, is another. Both are conveying to

Labor's mind the sensations and the vitality necessary to awaken it to its senses. Capitalism evolves, demonstrating the truth of Socialist teachings in so clear a manner that even the lethargic and stupid must arouse and be convinced of the need of right thought and action. "Dope" cannot turn back the working class. It moves, onward and upward, impelled thither by the force of evolution, and guided by the light of science, as represented by Socialism.

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