

Daniel De Leon

Editorial: Pullman Pilgrimist

Geo. M. Pullman, the head of the Pullman concern, has described Commerce, as understood by the capitalist, with admirable clearness and precision. "It is out of all question," he says, "for me to sell my cars unless they cost me less than I can get for them." In other words, to the capitalist, commerce consists in giving less than one gets; or, to put it in terse English—swindle.

Years ago, the glory of New England, Artmeus Ward, that quick scenter of humbug, and merciless lasher of fraud in all its numerous manifestations, said:

Most of the Pilgrims was sick on the passige in the Mayflower, but my ancestor wasn't. Even when the tempist raged and the billers howled, he sold another Pilgrim a kag of apple sass. The Pilgrim who bo't it was angry when he found that under a few layers of sass the rest was sawdust, and my ancestor said he wouldn't have b'leaved such wickedness could exist, when he ascertained that the bill sed Pilgrim gave him was onto a broken bank, and wasn't wuth the price of a glass of new gin. It could be thus seen that my fust ancestor had a COMMERCIAL mind.

It is owing to just this fact that capitalism is a system that chokes itself; it is owing to just this fact that, under the capitalist system of production, a non-producer and idler, the capitalist, having to be supported by the working class, production can not be carried on and must be stopped just as

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soon as that idle capitalist can not get more than he puts in; it is owing to just this fact that, despite all appliances and means to boot for fabulous production, either the wheels of industry become periodically paralyzed, or the worker must submit to the yielding of a still larger slice of his own skin.

There is but one way to escape the stupid horn this dilemma presents on the one side, and the inhuman horn it presents on the other—the erection of the Socialist or Co-operative Commonwealth, where the idler can not escape starvation; where the workers, being the masters of their own instruments of production, have free access to them; and where production, being carried {on} for use and enjoyment, can not be subject to the checks of capitalist commercialism, or swindle, as the thing admittedly is.

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*A De Leon editorial transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the
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