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SECOND EDITORIAL

East and West.

By DANIEL DE LEON

While, and at the same time that, here in the East, the officials elected by the capitalist parties reveal what slight value they place upon the lives of the WORKINGMAN PARENTS of children, by murdering them at Hazleton and preventing the arrest of the criminals, in the West, they reveal what slight value they place upon lives of the CHILDREN of workingmen and women.

A boy, Loren Fox, was killed by the neglect of the Oakland, Cal., Consolidated Railroad Company. The father sued the company, and the jury awarded him \$6,000 damages. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court, and the Court reversed the decision, on the ground that the child was not worth so much!

Here is the language of the Court literally:

“He (the child) was a mere infant, and for many years at best under ordinary conditions—and it is by such we must judge—he would have remained, however dear to their hearts, a subject of expense and outlay to his parents, without the ability to render pecuniary return. And common experience teaches further that, even after reaching an age of some usefulness, he yet would continue for the better part of his remaining years of minority more a source of outgo than of income.”

The bones, the flesh, the marrow, the blood of the working class is that on which the capitalist class feeds and feasts. Men, women and children are squeezed dry in the shops; slaughtered, intentionally and accidentally, with impunity; and the political machinery in the hands of the capitalist parties is there only to shield that bloodthirsty class!

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

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