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EDITORIAL

## HE IS NOT LIVING IN VAIN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**T looks very much as if Andrew Carnegie has decided not to live in vain. His \$10,000,000 “donation” to the Federal Government was, as recently shown in these columns, a demonstration of the turpitudinous character Capitalism and its Government had finally reached; his numerous “benefactions” in the shape of libraries have helped mightily to demonstrate the “bread and circus” powers, with all that that implies, that Capitalism exercises; his gifts of organs to churches, at the very season that he was riding roughshod over his workingmen, have pointed out how Churchianity holds the place of the spaniel to the Capitalist Class. All this would, it should seem, be contribution enough by one man to the stock of facts from which to proceed to wind up the accounts of a Social System that produces such social leprosy. But Carnegie evidently is not satisfied. He has just contributed one more valuable fact to the stock of facts needed to enlighten the masses.

At Port Royal, it will be remembered, a shocking mining accident occurred recently. Accidents may happen “in the best regulated families.” It is a known fact, however, that these mining accidents are no “accidents;” they are of too frequent occurrence, and are due to the criminal neglect of the Companies. It is also known that, every time a batch of miners are thus slaughtered, despite the fact that they have been piling up wealth for the Company, they are themselves paupers, not because of extravagance on their part, but because of the smallness of the share that they are allowed to retain from the fruits of their own toil. When these miners are killed their widows and orphans become destitute. Finally, it is well known that such a shocking state of things exists only by reason of the traitorous conduct of the officers of the United Mine Workers. These officers, a veritable Organized Scabbery, have all along done the dirty work for the employer. It is with their aid that the rank and file have been kept blinded to their own interests and power; it is with

their aid that the employer has thriven while the miner pined, and widowhood and orphanhood plus destitution was the periodical visitation that fell upon the families of the men of the pick and lamp. All this has become so well known, especially through the agitation and education spread by the Socialist Labor Party and its economic wing, the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance, that the rank and file of the miners have become a less and less docile being in the hands of the Organized Scabberly, and the Organized Scabberly is fast losing its hold. Such a development is not a pleasant one for the Carnegie or Capitalist Class to contemplate. Something must be done to re-instate the scurvy crew of the Labor Fakir officers of the Miners' Union in the good graces of the ill-starred rank and file. Now, then, that "something" Carnegie has hastened to do.

In the closing days of the year Carnegie donated \$2,000 to the widows and children of the victims of the Port Royal mine disaster. But how did he make the donation? Direct? No! He picked out that local limb of the Organized Scabberly that the rank and file of the miners were fastest "getting onto," he picked out the notorious Patrick Dolan, the President of the United Mine Workers of the Pittsburg district as his intermediary. The \$2,000 are to reach the widows and orphans of the Port Royal victims through the hands of that Labor Fakir, who more than any other human being in the district is responsible for the widowhood, the orphanhood and the distress, generally, that the \$2,000 alms are intended to relieve.

Who will say that Carnegie is living in vain? Who, in other words, will deny that Carnegie's donation materially helps to confirm the correctness of the S.L.P. tactics that the path of the emancipation of the Working Class lies over the prostrate bodies of the Organized Scabberly, these being but hired men and outposts of the Capitalist Robber Lord?

Who!?!

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