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EDITORIAL

## A KINK UNKINKED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**E**LBERT H. Gary, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the United States Steel Corporation, is reported to have said that “concentrative methods of business are not destructive of humane and kindly consideration for the toilers whose hands and brain create the wealth of the nation.”

The fact of the matter is that “the toilers whose hands and brain create the wealth of the nation” have not asked for kindly and humane consideration, they have asked for something more; they have asked for Justice! They have asked that, since it is their hands and brain that create the wealth of the nation, they be given that wealth as their just due. They have denounced and are denouncing the capitalist system as a system which robs them of that wealth; which, through profits, interest and rent, deprives them of four-fifths of the wealth which their hands and brain have produced and makes them the dependents of the capitalist class, who, by means of this robbery and deprivation, have become possessed of the capital of the nation and through it, of the control of all the institutions of society—social, religious, educational, judicial and political—to the detriment of the working class.

From this it is seen that when Elbert Gary talks of “kindly and humane consideration,” in his condescending manner, he is dodging the point at issue; he is ignoring the working class demand for justice, he is taking up a side-issue and building in theory a structure that has no foundation in fact, and exists only in his fertile imagination.

If it be true that concentrative methods of business are not destructive of “humane and kindly consideration for the toilers whose hands and brain create the wealth of the



ELBERT H. GARY (1846-1927)

nation,” how are we to account for the bloody use of the militia and federal troops in the settlement of labor disputes, in this era of “concentrative methods of business”? If this be true, how are we to account for the bloody conflicts at Homestead, Pa.; Pullman, Ill.; Coeur d’Alene and Warnder, Idaho? Or are we to believe that the fact that concentration and bloody arbitration of labor disputes happen in the same era is merely coincidental and in no way shows a correlation?

Again, if it be true that “concentrative methods of business are not destructive of humane and kindly consideration for the toilers whose hands and brain create the wealth of the nation,” how are we to account for the fact that in the iron and steel mills of the United States Steel Corporation the increase in the steel and iron output is accompanied by an increase in the number of accidents resulting in injury and death to the steel and iron workers?

If the Gary statement be true, how are we to account for the growing accident death rate among railroad employees? How, again, are we to account for the invaliding and killing of miners, which, according to the testimony of physicians before the Coal Strike Arbitration Commission, is caused by the parsimonious policy of the mine companies in failing to provide proper ventilation? Are we to believe that all the phenomena mentioned are also merely coincidental to and in no way related to the era of “concentrative methods of business”? Or are we to believe that the fact is that under concentrated capitalism, industrial and commercial supremacy, i.e., capitalist profits, is all-important, while working class life is simply secondary? We believe the answer to these questions must be such as to prove the Gary statement false and unsubstantiated.

Concentrative methods are now only beneficial to the capitalist class. They will be beneficial to the working class when applied by society for social use; when applied by Socialism.

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