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EDITORIAL

THERE GOES A PILLAR!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE latest issue of *The National Magazine* has an article signed by Senator Marcus A. Hanna. The subject is “Socialism and the Labor Unions.” Needless to say, the backer of Perry Heath and Perry Heath’s candidate for Republican President opposes Socialism. Also needless to say, this latest “argument” against Socialism but furnishes a fresh club with which to knock down, not Socialism, but its opposer. For all that, the club in this instance is worth pitch-forking.

The leading allegation of fact upon which is built the Senator’s argument against Socialism and in behalf of his beloved system of capitalism is this:

“Until within a comparatively few years big capitalists, or the employing interests, have had the advantage, because there were more workmen than there was work. But conditions have changed, and for every workman, on an average, there are two jobs now in the heyday of our prosperity.”

Now, then, before us is a copy of the Cincinnati *Times-Star* of the 5th of this very month,—the *Times-Star*, be it noted, is a paper published in the second largest city of the Senator’s own State. What testimony does the paper give? With billboard type across the whole width of the page the paper announces:

“Hundreds on the river front driven by the pangs of hunger to steal bread and meat by wholesale to save their lives—Testimony heartrending to the last word was given by a veteran police officer in court in pleading for the men he had been compelled to arrest, and the judge and prosecutor alike were moved.”

And two days later the same paper has this to say:

“The old cry for ‘bread’ that has been heard in many places, but rarely

in Cincinnati, until this present winter, is no longer sounding out in its weird and distressing pathos along the river front. There was bread enough and some to spare on Wednesday after several hundred applicants had been relieved, and the work of distribution was continued on Thursday under conditions that made the case-hardened police officers turn their heads away. The applicants were confined to no particular class or kind. There were women and children, strong men and weak men, and the story they nearly all told was monotonous in its dire want.”

Again:

“Occasionally the police officers asked the applicants why they did not save up so as to have something for a rainy day, and in nearly every instance they got a reply that left them speechless for want of further logical argument....With the present price of provisions it is next to impossible for him to keep soul and body together, if he happens to have a family on that sum [\$5.50 a week], and any idea of ‘saving up,’ as suggested, is, of course, out of the question.”

Again:

“Nearly every morning at 1 or 2 o’clock policemen on their beats find men picking potato peelings out of ash-barrels.”

Of course, soup-houses have gone up in Cincinnati. Thus things stood, and stand, in his own State, not to mention others, at the time that Senator Hanna was romancing about there being “two jobs for every workman in the heyday of our prosperity”!

No further attention needs here to be paid to Senator Hanna’s argument in favor of his social system, the system on which he “stands pat.” The underpinning of his argument being knocked off the argument itself is a heap of rubbish.

Let not the double fact escape notice—capitalism can not be defended and Socialism attacked but with falsehood, robust, shameless and deliberate; nor is the truth ever far to seek to knock down both the falsifier and his fraud with.

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