

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 7, NO. 224.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1907.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## MALTHUS EXHIBITED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE reports from the Northwest are to the effect that the car shortage has caused and continues to cause enormous losses, no slight suffering, and even death—while the dividends on railroad stock continue to climb, shedding proportional well-being. In these days when capitalism, driven back from ditch to ditch along the lines of defense, is resuscitating Malthus as a justification for the sufferings of the masses, the Northwestern car shortage incident with its double trail of woe for the many and bliss for the few is a gem.

Owing to car shortage two thousand freight cars, loaded with Christmas goods billed to Dakota towns lie in the yards of the Minnesota Transfer Company since December 1. At least half the number lie scattered along the side-tracks between the Twin Cities and the Dakota eastern border. Christmas goods contribute to cheer without necessarily contributing to keep up life. But that is not all. Large shipments of grain, intended for the East, also lie banked up. Grain is a staff of life. Deprivation thereof impairs life. As everybody knows who has ever looked over statistics of birth, lean times are reflected in low figures of birth. Who will doubt but that some desperate capitalist pundit, desperately catching after straws, may catch at Malthus, and holding up the figures of mortality and low child birth in these days say—“Malthus is demonstrated; population increases faster than food and raiment; against this latter barrier the rising tide of population must dash itself; is it Nature, not we, capitalists, who are responsible for human suffering!”

That such claims will be made there is no doubt; they are already being made—and careful are the makers thereof to keep dark the fact that the evil results to which they point and which they seek to shift upon Nature’s shoulders are the result of capitalism exclusively—of capitalism which finds it just now profitable to create a car famine.

Capitalism has reached a point when it has become a mill stone around the neck of Humanity.

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

Uploaded August 2009

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)