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EDITORIAL

MADNESS WITH METHOD IN IT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE *Railroadmen's Journal* for June is rich in the economic thought that is so zealously expounded by the Civic Federationized "labor press." There is one article in particular that is filled to overflowing with the precious stuff. It is entitled "America the best place for the worker." "Work in America," the reader is told, through the pen of a foreign writer, "is regarded as one of the simple inevitable joys of life, to be classed with breathing and walking." After this, the reader feels inclined to throw his hat in the air and whoop with patriotism, when his eye strikes another article, "The Death Roll of Industry," which demonstrates "the simple inevitable joys" to be deadly nightmares, and America about the worst place for the worker to be employed in. Says this article: "France, Germany and Holland have come pretty close to counting their death roll and shortening it. America does not even count the lives. We know the number of cattle and hogs slaughtered for food, but we do not know the number of men, women and children whose lives and limbs are crushed by the wheels of industry running at top speed."

To the new reader of *The Railroadmen's Journal* these contradictory statements would indicate a lack of consistent policy or purpose; however, such an indication is misleading. The policy and purpose is to muddle the working class and perpetuate the capitalist class, which derives its wealth from the surplus value stolen from the workers. This is apparent first, in the fact that the alleged well-being of the American workman is held by *The Journal* to attract immigration; and is thus incidentally made an aid to the anti-immigration campaign, with its perpetuation of race hatred, which keeps the working class divided and blind to the necessity of abolishing capitalism. Second, "The Death Roll of Industry" serves the purpose of enlisting working class activity in the promotion of the safety appliance movement, which makes little headway before the intensification of labor, with its

growing death rate. This again diverts the working class from the necessity of abolishing the class whose private ownership of capital makes possible the robbery and slaughter of labor—the capitalist class. It will not do for the capitalists to permit labor to be alive to the real cause of its real position; hence their Civic Federation endorsement and censorship of such “labor” organizations and journals as the railroadmen’s; hence also the misleading indications in the policy and purpose of the latter.

There is a method in the madness of *The Railroadmen’s Journal* and the Civic Federationized “labor press” of which it is a typical representative.

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