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EDITORIAL

## IN SOBER EARNEST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**T**HEN what is the relief?” inquires a contributor who is given prominent space in a certain publication.

“Then what is the relief?” he inquires after showing that there is no relief to be expected from the quarters usually pointed to as the quarters whence relief would come for the deepening poverty of ever larger masses.

“Then what is the relief?” And the answer given is:

“Simply this. Give the common people a chance to invest their savings in the stocks and bonds which give the full earning capacity of their money.”

A solution like that of Columbus’s egg is not in it with this one. It is simpler, and it is easier—just invest your savings in stocks and bonds.

But where are the savings to come from with “the ever larger masses who are weighed down with deepening poverty”?

Ridiculous question! Quibble! Unreasoning discontent!

The homely adage teaches “First catch your oysters”; after that the making of the oyster stew is an easy matter. Ten to one the wisdom taught by the adage is not foreign to the contributor at bar who asks the question: “Then what is the relief?” But wisdom in the ordinary walks of life is not always a guarantee of wisdom in those higher walks that concern national wellbeing

The contributor who asks the question is a type of, unfortunately, a large element. And they get off their stupidities, not as a joke, but in sober earnest—and convinced that they are wiseacres—and there are publications, not of drollery, who print the stuff.

In this instance the “human curiosity” is one Lincoln Clark of Tampa, Fla.; and the “inhuman curiosity” is *Investing for Profit*, a Chicago publication, in its this month’s issue.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)