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EDITORIAL

SMITE 'EM, HIP AND THIGH!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Republican statistical broadside, once before referred to in these columns, may be profitably referred to again. It furnishes food in still another direction for intelligent campaign consumption. It furnishes eloquently the reasons why the capitalist class should be delirious with joy and deliriously anxious to keep its two political parties in joint power. But for that very reason it furnishes equally strong reasons why the working class should shatter both the Democratic and the Republican crutches that politically prop up the capitalist class.

Among the figures furnished by the statistical broadside in question are the product of manufacture, the wages paid and the per capita of wealth during the five decades of 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890 and 1900. Let's approach and read the lay.

In 1860, the wage earners produced \$1,885,861,676 worth of manufacture; the total wages paid them was \$378,878,966;—in other words, Labor then received 20.09 per cent. of the fruits of its toil.

In 1870, the wage earners produced \$4,232,325,442 worth of manufacture; the total wages paid them was \$775,584,343;—in other words, Labor then received 18.33 per cent. of the fruits of its toil.

In 1880, the wage earners produced \$5,369,579,191 worth of manufacture; the total wages paid them was \$947,953,795;—in other words, Labor then received 17.65 per cent. of the fruits of its toil.

In 1890, the wage earners produced \$9,372,437,283 worth of manufacture; the total wages paid them was \$1,891,228,321;—in other words, Labor received 20.18 per cent. of the fruits of its toil.

In 1900, the wage earners produced \$13,039,279,566 worth of manufacture; the total wages paid them was \$2,330,578,010;—in other words, Labor then received

17.87 per cent. of the fruits of its toil.

Summing up we obtain the following tell-tale table:

Year	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900
Labor's Share	20.09	18.33	17.65	20.18	17.87

Thus it is seen that, confessedly, under the shield and the sword of the Republican-Democratic party combine the share of the working class, a pittance in 1860, was even lower still at the last census year. It rose in 1890 slightly above the percentage of 1860, but has since sunk again, obedient to the general law of its sinkage, as established by the above table.

Nor is this all.

Even the Republican-Democratic capitalist class is not merely a hyena class. Consisting of human beings, it has some humanity in it. Accordingly, one cannot presume that its enthusiasm for capitalism and its Democratic-Republican political party props is due merely to the efficiency of these in beating down the workers and injuring the working class. Can theirs be a case of mere delight at the injury of others without any benefit to themselves? The statistical broadside in question answers the query to the point, by furnishing also the per capita of wealth for the several decades:

In 1870 the per capita of wealth in the country was \$780. Seeing that the per capita of what the workingman got, his wages, for that year was \$377 in the manufacturing and mechanical trades, the best paid of the trades, it follows that the capitalist per capita of plunder must have been not less than \$403.

In 1880 the per capita of wealth was \$870. Seeing that the per capita of what the workingman got, his wages, was not more than \$346, it follows that the capitalist per capita of plunder must have been not less than \$524—or \$178 more than at the previous decade.

In 1890 the per capita of wealth was \$1,038. Seeing that the per capita of what the workingman got, his wages, was not more than \$445, it follows that the capitalist per capita of plunder must have been not less than \$593—or \$69 more than at the previous decade.

Finally, in 1900 the per capita of wealth was \$1,236. Seeing that the per capita of what the workingman got, his wages, was not more than \$436, it follows that the capitalist per capita of plunder must have been not less than \$800—or \$207 more than at the previous decade.

Summing up, the following table is obtained:

Year	Capitalist Plunder	
	Labor's Share	Per Capita
1870	18.33	\$403
1880	17.65	\$524
1890	20.18	\$593
1900	17.87	\$800

Thus, with a declining share of its own product, and an actually declining earning for the working class, both the relative and the actual plunder that falls to the capitalist class keeps on soaring up majestically.

Who can wonder at the capitalist class's delirious enthusiasm for capitalism and for its Republican-Democratic party upholders?!!

Or who could wonder at the increased manifestations of deep-reaching indignation in the camp of the working class?!!

Who will wonder if the plunder-laden capitalist class flock next November to their Roosevelt-Parker political lackeys?!!

Or who should wonder if the increasing number of enlightened workingmen seize next November the Uplifted Arm and Hammer of the Socialist Labor Party ballot, and, to the ringing tune of Corregan and Cox, smite the plunderer hip and thigh!?!?!?

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

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