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EDITORIAL

WE CAN'T ALL HAVE AUTOMOBILES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is high time that kicking and rioting workingmen and Socialists generally, quit their fooling, and become orderly.

E.H. Gary, the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Steel Trust, testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee on the condition of Labor in general, especially of Labor employed in protected industries, said on December 18:

“I can produce a photograph of one of my company’s industrial plants showing automobiles waiting in front for the close of business to carry employees to their homes.”

Theories that don’t stand upon facts have their feet in the air. Here we have a **FACT**—a stout, robust **FACT**. Workingmen owning automobiles, riding on them to and from work. Here is a fact upon which to build and from which sound conclusions can be drawn. Here is a fact that throws light into many a hitherto dark corner.

Workingmen frequently are sick. They and their Socialist congeners have been claiming that these sicknesses were the consequence of starvation wages. Now we know the real reason. The reason is indigestion and gout, resultant upon over-feeding. People who sport automobiles don’t usually starve—not to any alarming extent.

What a lot of sentimental gush have not Socialists indulged in on the score of accidents suffered by workingmen, even comparing the industrial field with “a bloody field of battle, where the limbs and lives of the toilers are sacrificed.” Now we have an insight into the nature of these accidents. They are automobile accidents. Reckless workingmen, true to their lawless nature, ride beyond the speed

limit—and, of course, break their legs, arms and other things.

Off and on, and quite frequently, the din is heard of clamorous demands for higher wages, and old women of both sexes swell the noise with complaints that the workingmen have no clothes, and that the clothes they have are too old, and they need new ones. Oh! Now the secret is out! What they want is automobiles, or money to repair, or substitute the old ones which they have worn out.

This nonsense of the Labor or Socialist movement must come to an end. Society can not afford to be kept in unrest just because a lot of people are never satisfied. We can't all have automobiles, and ever more money for repairs and new ones.

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