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EDITORIAL

COSTLY MONKEYSHINES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

VERY full reports are coming in from London of the late levee, recently held by King Edward, at which Ambassador Whitelaw Reid introduced a bevy of American millionairesses and heiresses, each of whom crooked the pregnant hinges of the knee as she was “presented to royalty.”

The description of their dresses is one of almost Asiatic splendor. The technical terms of the various garments are not likely to be understood by the “common people.” But the “common people” will understand the thing when translated.

Estimating the bowl of pea soup that is handed out at the breadline as costing 1 cent, then Mrs. Joseph Stickney trailed just 1,000,000 bowls of pea soup behind her.

Estimating at 75 cents the cheap pairs of shoes that little ones of the working class have to go without, the neck, breast and fingers of Mrs. Walter Farwell of Chicago dazzled in 853,332 such shoes.

Estimating at 15 cents the calico gowns that little girls wear in the summer, the dress of Miss Amita Stewart of New York was flounced with 10,000 little girls' gowns.

Estimating at 12 cents the cost of the handful of coal that poor seamstresses require for cooking and ironing, Miss Ruth Adams of New York was chiffoned in 11,000 little handfuls of coal.

Estimating at 1/5 of a cent the slice of bread that to fully 300,000 children of the land is the only breakfast they get before going to school, Mrs. Yvonne Calhoun of Washington held in her hand alone a bouquet of 2,000 thin slices of bread.

Estimating at 5 cents the oil consumed by a workingman in his little lamp, Miss Julia Townsend of New York was charmeuxed in 40,000 little oil lamps.

As to the wife of the Ambassador himself, ex-Miss Mills of Coeur d'Alene D.Q. Mills fame, estimating at 7 cents the shoddy pair of stockings worn by the little

daughters of the workers, the lady wore on her head and body and trailed along the ground 2,142,857 little girls' stockings.

It is rather expensive monkeyshines that these millionairesses and heiresses are indulging in when the working class of the land are in want of food, shoes, stockings, light, clothes, etc.

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