

EDITORIAL

PRES. WOOD OF LAWRENCE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ONLY Socialists, “hissing serpents who instigate class hatred,” will deny that W.M. Wood, President of the American Woolen Company, is a good and pious man. Yet, as appears from President Wood’s statement to the Lawrence textile operatives on strike, goodness and piety are no substitute for knowledge, nor are they a preventive against ignorance.

For instance—

President Wood argues: “Your wages were paid by the hour and as you work only fifty-four hours you could be paid only for fifty-four hours’ work,” and not for the fifty-six hours of before. President Wood, being a good and pious man, does not mean to lie: he is merely ignorant of the facts. It is not true that his operatives were formerly paid for 56 hours. They **WORKED** 56 hours and were **PAID** for only 6. It is not true that the present wage pays for 54 hours. The present wage pays only for 4 hours—there still remain 50 hours unpaid for.

President Wood says: “I am an employe of the Company as you are.” President Wood, being a good and pious man, does not mean to lie: he is merely ignorant of the facts in the case. An employe is a man whose labor-power is bought in the labor market at the price that supply and demand determine, in conjunction with the whip of hunger. An employe brings his hide to a tanning at the hand of the employer. Neither is the case with President Wood. His “services” were not bought. He could not hold his position without he is a large stockholder. He was elected by his own vote, and when elected he was elected to a place where, not his hide got a tanning, but that of the employes, he being the principal tanner in the tannery. The test is this:—An employe is “done” by the employer; an employer “does” the employe. President Wood being one who “does” the doing, he is not employe; he is employer.

President Wood says: "Many of them [the stock holders] depend on their dividends for their living just as you depend on your wages for yours." President Wood, being a good and pious man, does not mean to lie: he is merely ignorant on the subject. The vampire on a man's flank depends on the blood it sucks up from the man for its living, just as the man depends on his food for his living. The dependence of the vampire upon the man's blood is no reason why the vampire's sustenance should be safeguarded the same as the man's. On the contrary, it is the very best reason why the vampire should be cut off from his "base of supplies." That the idle stockholders depend on their dividends for their living is the very best reason why the operatives, whose blood is transmuted into dividends, should retrench on the supply of the said stockholders.

President Wood of the American Woolen Company is a type of the tribe that John Ruskin had in mind when he said: "Moneyed men, generally, are ignorant enough to believe and assert anything; but it is noticeable that their ignorance always tells on their own side."

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