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EDITORIAL

## LEGAL SHANGHAIING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** BRIDGEPORT, CONN., correspondent forwards to this office two circulars which his 19-year-old son received from the United States Navy Recruiting Service.

The circulars are masterpieces of psychology. A lad's virtues, which so lightly turn to vices, are all excited vice-ward.

Boys' natural intractability is fanned under the guise of desire to promote his becoming "self-reliant, resourceful, capable of coping with almost any situation that may arise."

Boys' natural disposition to roam is prodded with vistas of foreign countries to be visited.

Boys', especially poor men's boys', natural chafing under penury is fomented with promises of "good pay."

Boys' natural propensity to have a good time is stimulated with prospects to "thoroughly enjoy life."

Boys' instinct to get the best of others is pricked with assurances of "the enormous advantages a Navy man has over others."

Boys' but too frequent inclination to break loose from paternal restraint, if not to rebel, is given a Satanic push forward by the suggestion that no parents' or guardian's consent is needed if the lad is over eighteen.

And so it goes on to the bottom of one circular as introductory to the second, which is a blank for the expected victim to sign an application for a copy of a booklet entitled *The Making of a Man-o'-Warsman*. The booklet is expected to finish-up the youngster, and he is requested to send in the name of a few of his friends, to be similarly operated upon.

The seizing of men, whether previously drugged or not for that purpose, and

shipping them before the mast, where they find themselves under a captain with power over their lives,—that is called Shanghaiing. It is a criminal offense. What else but Shanghaiing, by means of insidiously narcotizing a lad are the circulars, sent out to lads by “yours truly [sic.] G.C. Daly, Commander, U.S. Navy, Recruiting officer”?

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)