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EDITORIAL

SQUIRRELS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ONE day, the window of a bookstore at 144 Fulton street in this city, had the following notice:

The handwriting on the wall seems to indicate that every library built by Mr. Carnegie is a monument to his memory, also a headstone to the commercial grave of the retail bookseller.

'Tis sad, but true. Consequently this store will be closed for a few days, preparing the stock for distribution by auction.

As soon as alterations are made a modern motion picture theatre will be operated under the management of

R.E. Sherwood.

You can't keep a squirrel on the ground.

And the author of this squib was a handler of books!

Thus does the mind operate of those wage slaves to whose eyes capitalist politicians, press, professors and pulpiteers have clapped the blinkers, preventing them from perceiving that the cause of their declining wage is the private ownership of the native labor-displacing machine.—They think the cause is the immigrant, and fight immigration.

Thus does the mind operate of those ruined tradesmen who have been chloroformed with the potions dealt out by “radicals” preventing them from grasping the fact that capitalism decrees the doom of the “small man.”—They think that “Money is the source of all evils,” and fight banking, and propose to democratize the same.

Thus does the mind operate of those dupes of “reform” who attribute “prostitution,” “pauperism” and “juvenile delinquency” to wickedness.—They think more reformatories are “the crying need of the hour.”

Etc.; etc.; etc.; etc.

And thus, exactly thus, does the mind operate of the tribe of our witty book-

seller, who, doped with heaven only knows what brand of dope, have no eyes in their heads to see that the ever narrower quarters to which ever larger numbers of people are driven by the flaming sword of capitalism, and that the ever waxing insecurity of existence, forced by the same sword upon ever increasing multitudes, thus compelling these swelling masses to be “on the move,” disable more and more people from acquiring a library, or buying books as formerly.—This tribe blame the Carnegie libraries.

If some squirrels” could only be “kept on the ground,” or if the percentage of “squirrels” were smaller, what would become of the “squirrel”-raisers?

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