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EDITORIAL

LET THE WORKERS HUSTLE!

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THE Ship Subsidy bill passed the Senate with a safe majority. This is one long step towards its becoming a law, and thus registering one more stupendous steal, practised upon the National Treasury. Indeed, in passing, one of the arguments brazenly made in its favor was that it was “no worse than so many others.” As far as this feature of the affair is concerned, the matter would hardly merit much attention: whether the millions to be appropriated are left in the Federal Treasury, or whether they be invested in more Gatling-guns-on-paper-dispensing Judges, or in larger military establishments, or whether they be plumped into the pockets of a select coterie of ship-owning capitalists,—what’s the odds? The condition of the Working Class remains the same. After, as before, the earnings of the workingman decline, because, after, as before, their earnings are determined by the supply and the demand for Labor in the Labor market, and, consequently, after as before, the bulk of their product is plundered from them by the Capitalist Class. Whatever disposition is made of the millions to be appropriated, the root of the system of wage slavery remains unaffected one way or the other. The disposition of the aforementioned millions in the treasury is determined merely by the preponderance, this way or that way, of this, that, or the other plundering capitalist concern. That the said millions—exclusively the product of Labor—are found in the Treasury and not in the workingmen’s pocket is in itself evidence of their representing “Plunder.” The fight was among the plunderers for the share of this portion of the workers’ hide. In so far what’s there new, odd or surprising in the “Ship Subsidy”? Nothing. And yet there is that in the “Ship Subsidy” that takes it out of the usual run of steals.

When moneys are appropriated for the River and Harbor, the Public Buildings, the Canals, and so many other pretences for steals the moneys do not go directly

into the robbers' private pockets; they travel thither safely and surely enough, but they travel thither circuitously. In this instance, however, the steal goes thither on a bee-line. In doing so it damages not a little the anti-Socialist speeches that the Capitalist Class seeks to head off Socialism with; and it knocks into a heap of ruins all capitalist pretences to sincerity and honesty.

The Working Class maintains and proves that, stripped of the wherewithal to work with (Capital), it can not hold its own in the competitive struggle for existence, and goes down, a wage slave class, fleeced by its fellow competitors for life, the Capital-holding or Capitalist Class. The Working Class programme, accordingly, is the demand that the Capital needed to work with be legislated into the hands of the Working Class. The very mention of such a programme throws the Ship Subsidy Class into hysterics: "Un-Americanism!" "Paternalism!" "Individuality-Killingism!" "Treason!" "Un-Godliness!" such are but a few of the printable sputterings that the Ship Subsidy Class sputters at the Working Class demand. What a commentary on capitalist rectitude is not the Ship Subsidy bill!

The orchestration to which the Ship Subsidy bill was launched and passed the Senate is the claim that, stripped of a Subsidy, these ship-owning capitalists could not hold their own in the competition with foreign ship-owners, and have to go down defeated by their fellow competitors. In other words, the identical class, with Hanna as its fogleman, that cries out anathema against the workingman's programme of having the capital he needs in the competitive struggle for life legislated into his hands,—that identical class turns about and demands that the capital (subsidy), which it says it needs in the shipping trade competitive warfare, be legislated into its hands!

But even such a spectacle may be said to be nothing new. What, it may asked, can there be new in the line of Capitalist self-stultification?! Who is there with brains in his head who, for some time has needed any proof of Capitalist inherent baseness, dishonesty, and fraud?! Granting the obvious point, there would yet remain in this Ship Subsidy performance an eloquent object lesson to be profited by. It is this:

Without Capital the competitor goes down: Therefore—woe to that competitor who is not in the possession of the Public Powers: Only that competitor who is able to himself legislate, executivize and judicialize the requisite Capital into his own

hands—in other words, who has placed himself on the right side of the guns—, has any show: To-day only the Capitalist Class is there, consequently it legislates, etc., INTO ITS OWN HANDS: Let the Working Class hustle, bounce the Capitalist Class and get there itself.

**Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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