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EDITORIAL

## A CHIP OF THE OLD BLOCK.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A**S ducks take to mill-ponds and goats tend to the woods, so does the clergy of Capitalism instinctively sniff the air that gives it life. The Rev. Robert S. MacArthur, one of the most enraptured praise-singers and canonizers of Rockefeller, illustrates the point. Decent people have long been full of condemnation for Russia. The flood of condemnation was not dammed even by the assurances of the Rev. De Witt C. Talmadge that the Czar was “a good Christian man.” Russian barbarism, doused with the hypocrisy of so-called civilization, lashed on the indignation; it swamped the Talmadges and no ruling class, the world over, was and is more generally execrated than the Russian. But now comes the Rev. MacArthur and assigns a different reason for his satisfaction at the victories of Japan and for his detestation of Russia. It is not that the Russian government is barbarous, it is not that the Russian government is hypocritical—not these are the reasons of the Rev. gentleman’s disgust for Russia. That about Russia that disgusts him is that there are in Russia only 130 working days!

The old Protestant blood is up and boiling in the Rev. MacArthur’s veins. The guild-masters of old felt as wroth as the modern capitalist pulpiter at the numerous holidays enjoyed by their apprentices and guaranteed to them by the then Catholic Church. That wrothness fanned the flames of the religious Reformation; and the material interests at its bottom, the interests that gave it solidity, saw to it that a new creed was set up that would sweep away the holidays, and thus deprive the apprentices (workingmen) of the religious pretext to insist upon enjoying their lives, and furnish the guild-masters (oncoming capitalists) with the requisite religious pretext to whack more profits out of their employees.

In the matter of holidays, Russia is still archaic—too archaic for the modern capitalist soul of the MacArthurs. For these there can be no crime comparable to

that of potential Labor enjoying holidays, and thereby depriving the God Capital of the profits that he might coin into long figures of bank deposits. Labor enjoying holidays and not toiling and moiling for the capitalist is the abomination of desolation in the eyes of Capitalism—and consequently in the eyes also of the Protestant clergy, who, like the MacArthurs, have remained true to the spirit that inspired their creed.

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

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