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EDITORIAL

KINGS COUNTY GRAND JURY'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

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BARELY nine months ago the Grand Jury for Manhattan made a presentment to the effect that it abstained from finding indictments against the Insurance officers on the ground that if it indicted them, then, "the leading officials of the leading financial institutions of the State and County would have to be indicted also." That presentment was in the nature of a pace-setter. Thitherto the theory was that indictments were to be found, or not found, according to the presence or absence of proof of guilt. The new theory, the pace set by the April Grand Jury of Manhattan was that, not the presence or absence of guilt concerns Grand Juries, but the "station in life" of men. Guilt becomes Virtue if committed by capitalist magnates. Or, in other words, a wrong, if profitable to the capitalist class, was good ground for piling up another wrong—the affording of protection to the guilty. Speedily has the Kings County Grand Jury fallen into the new lock-step.

The Kings County Grand Jury for December recommended the abolition of home work among public school children. After giving some alleged and disingenuously pedagogic reasons for the recommendation, the Kings County Grand Jury proceeds to state its real reasons, to wit: "It is growing more and more difficult, in our opinion, for children to study at home BECAUSE OF THE GREATLY INCREASED NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHO ARE LIVING UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS TO SHUT THEMSELVES ABSOLUTELY AWAY FROM THE DISTRACTING INFLUENCES OF THE BALANCE OF THE FAMILY AND WHAT IT MAY BE DOING."—In other words, the deepening misery into which capitalism thrusts increasing numbers of families of the land is not a subject for Grand Jury presentments; the capitalist

wrongs that are undermining the opportunity for the children of increasing numbers of families to acquire an education—those Wrongs must be taken for Virtues. Instead of the Wrongs being removed and the social system adapted to the Virtues that civilization demands, society is to be adapted to the Wrongs committed by Capitalism. Seeing that the “homes” of the Working Class are becoming more and more miserable, and that owing thereto the school children’s opportunities for doing home work are poorer and poorer, instead of improving the “homes,” home work is to be abolished!

Such is the Christmas present that the Kings County Grand Jury, following the pace of the Grand Jury of Manhattan, tenders to the children of the Working Class.

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

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