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EDITORIAL

Mustard Plaster on Wooden Legs.

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The latest report from the New York State bureau, misnamed of "Labor," asserts that "all trades are over-stocked," which is certainly true, and that "workmen of forty-five years of age cannot easily get work and support themselves," which is equally true; and then it earns its spurs as a "Labor" publication by recommending the stoppage of immigration as a cure, or at least a relief!

If ever there was a case of applying a mustard plaster to a wooden leg, claiming it will raise a blister, the feat is performed by the "Labor" noodles whom the capitalist class carefully picked out to run that "Labor Bureau."

For every one man whom immigration increases the labor market by, the privately owned and improving machine increases the labor market by ten. Yet a hue and cry is raised against the former, while against the private ownership of the latter not a word is uttered by our economic quacks.

Of course not. Some pretence must be made of sympathy by the felon class of capitalists with the long denied, but now no longer deniable, suffering of the people. The anti-immigration form of sympathy is best suited to the purses of these gentlemen.

In the first place, even if anti-immigration laws are passed, they would not be enforced if the really would relieve the labor market. The Powderlys and other precious laborites whom the capitalists appoint to carry out the labor laws, need but a tip to shut their eyes and let in all the immigrants that the capitalist needs, if he need {needs/?} any.

In the second place, anti-immigration agitation is wonderfully calculated to conceal the real sore. To tip the left side of the hat of the wayfarer, whose right-hand pocket the pickpocket has made up his mind to make a descent upon, and in which he

is at work, is a piece of tactics well known among foot-pads, and quite clever withal. The trick requires a pal. The pal of the capitalist in this case is his appointee to the "Labor Bureau." The latter tips the hat of the working class by crying "anti-immigration," and if he succeeds in drawing the working class' attention in that direction, the capitalist can riot all the more freely and safely in the private possession of the machinery of production, whose rapid improvement and continued private or capitalist ownership is the real cause of the "overstocking of all trades," and of the squeezed-out-lemon condition in which workingmen, not older than forty-five years, find themselves.

Fortunately the swindle is being found out more and more.

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