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EDITORIAL

TWO MICROBES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE New York *Sun* has made a discovery. It says:

“The danger to the body politic,—the danger of a highly centralized, bureaucratic government in this country, does not lie in the direction of the individual proclivities of the Chief Magistrate or in the debility and perversity of Congress, but in the growing recklessness and dishonesty of the management of our great corporations. This it is which is sapping the foundation of the social structure and which threatens the stability of the very Government itself.”

Which is the same as saying:

“The danger to the body of a man afflicted with tuberculosis does not lie in the direction of his individual proclivities, but in the growing recklessness of the tubercular microbes in procreating. This it is which saps the foundation of the man’s structure and which threatens him with death.”

Of course! It is the way of the tubercular microbes to increase and multiply, and seeing this can not happen without the man’s lungs being eaten up, the foundation of his structure is sapped. Exactly so with the microbe of capitalism.

Like the tubercular microbe, the microbe of capitalism is not there for the other fellow’s fun; like the tubercular microbe, the microbe of capitalism is there for its own fun, it must spread; like the tubercular microbe, the microbe of capitalism, if left alone, saps the foundation of that which it feeds upon, and, if left alone, brings on a crash; finally, like the tubercular microbe, the microbe of capitalism can sooner be ended than mended. Of course the man afflicted with tuberculosis may help the disease along; and so may the official head of a nation that is afflicted with the microbe of capitalism help along the sapping.

The *Sun*’s discovery is grandiose. He who says “Capitalism” says also “growing

recklessness in the management of great corporations.” The great corporations can as little prevent “growing recklessness” as can tubercular microbes. It is the law of their existence. To tinker at the former is as idle as to tinker at the latter. The latter must be stamped out of the body by the proper virus, aided by the strengthening of the physical body. The former must be stamped out by the virus that makes its quietus.

The “growing recklessness” of our great corporations can only be stopped by ending them. The virus to do it with is Socialism.

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