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EDITORIAL

## DOG-IN-THE-MANGERISM.

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**M**OST unfelicitous of all the declarations made in that long series of unfelicitous declarations, known as the Republican national platform of 1908, is the declaration:

“We have a vast domain of three million square miles, literally bursting with latent treasure, still waiting the magic of capital and industry to be converted to the practical uses of mankind.”

Surely, it can not be that the Republican party is waiting, and holding all that latent treasure in reserve for when more “mankind” shall have been born. There is plenty of “mankind” in the country now, panting for some little share of the treasure, even if it be a thin slice of bread and a bowl of soup. Even in normal times this “mankind” has everything but treasure—something like \$300 to \$400 a year with which to keep body and soul together. Just now whole rafts of that “mankind” are wholly out of work—utterly treasureless. Why not allow that three thousand [*sic*] square miles that is “literally bursting with wealth” to do some little actual bursting?

The plank declares that what that three thousand [*sic*] square miles are waiting for is “the magic of capital and industry.”

Industry, like Barkis, is willing, obviously willing; anxiously willing.

If one of the two things needed to obtain a result is ready, and the result is not obtained, it must follow that the other of the two things is holding back.

The Republican platform declares that capital and industry, meaning, of course labor, have to give the magic touch. Labor is ready; the “bursting” has not taken place; consequently, capital is staying its touch.

The plank of the Republican party that refers to three millions of square miles,

literally bursting with wealth, but left unbursted, is an indictment of the Republican party, in particular, and of capitalism in general. It indicts capitalism as dog-in-the-mangerism; it indicts the Republican, as, indeed, it indicts the Democratic party also, as the upholders of a dog-in-the-manger social system.

At times like these, when actual want reigns in the country, the fact that capitalism is a blight upon the nation, instead of the blessing that it cracks itself up for,—that is the important fact brought out by the three-million-square-miles-of-territory-literally-bursting-with-latent-wealth-Republican plank.

Capital is the privately owned means of production. There is no “magic touch” about capital. That is mere fiction. The magic touch lies wholly in Labor, assisted by the means of production. The “capital” feature (private ownership) of the means of production palsies them. It paralyzes the means of production the instant the capitalist can not see a profit for himself, he being the “mankind”, in their operation.

The “capital” feature of the means of production turns these, from engines of happiness to mankind, into barriers that keep natural opportunities “unbursted”. To make things doubly sure, the capitalist also preoccupies the natural opportunities.

Labor is languishing, not because natural opportunities are niggardly, or exhausted. It is admitted there is a domain of three million square miles “literally bursting” with latent wealth. Labor languishes because the capitalist system, of which the Republican party is the leading apostle, curses the race with its dog-in-the-manger system.

From one end of the country to the other, and illustrating the point with the Republican platform, the cry should be:

“Strip the necessaries for work from their present capitalist feature!”

“Down with dog-in-the-mangerism!”

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

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