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EDITORIAL

## AN EMPIRE WITHIN AN EMPIRE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**O**F all unseasonable and unguarded statements that the fates are forcing to the lips of Rep-Dem capitalists, none is more unseasonable than the statement made by B.F. Yoakum, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Rock Island-San Francisco lines when, in the course of his address before the eleventh biennial convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, held at Columbus, O., on Sept. 28th, he said: "With the increased business of the railroads I have shown for the next ten years, one man out of six of our entire adult population will be a railroad employee."

The statement is correct. It amounts to saying that within the nominally democratic Empire of the United States there is an actually autocratic Empire which holds arbitrary sway over the existence of one man out of every six of the entire adult population of the outer and nominally democratic empire.

With the outer, and nominally democratic Empire, the population has, or at least seems to have a word to say in the matter of the ruling officials and the laws they may decree. With the inner Empire, the vast number (1 out of every 6), have absolutely nothing to say. They can be dismissed or employed as the Autocrat may please; they may be bossed about as the master may choose.

The fact to which Mr. Yoakum proudly calls attention suggests kindred facts. There are other, though not quite such large autocratic Empires within the nominally democratic Empire of the United States. Yoakum's Empire is a Railroad Realm; there are the Mines Realm; the Steel and Iron Realm; the Factory Realm, etc., etc. With the latter the number of vassals may not be as 1 to every 6 of our entire population. The ratio may be smaller. Yet the relation of the employee to the employer is the same, the relation of vassal to lord. In all such instances the real sovereignty is exercised by the respective capitalist nobility.

Not the outer but the inner wheels of a mechanism set it and keep it in motion.

Democrats do not differ from Republican in their outspoken approval of capitalism. Mr. Yoakum's words are a settler. Every thinking man, outside of the capitalist class, upon whose ears the Yoakum figures fall, and every man, outside of the capitalist class, who can draw conclusions, must,—by these figures, together with the further figures they suggest—realize that there is just one ticket in the field entitled to respect and support:—

PRESTON'S PROXY GILLHAUS

and

MUNRO.

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