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EDITORIAL

TRY IT AGAIN, TEDDY!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE candles that pious Socialists have surely been burning to their patron Saints have surely not been burned in vain. Roosevelt has broken his long enforced silence: he has come out with another letter. This letter is worth all the others. As a Samson Agonistes Roosevelt clutches the pillars of the Capitalist Temple, gives them another shake, and makes assurance doubly sure that the iniquitous structure must collapse.

In this latest letter, the praises the President feels constrained to bestow upon his “Dear Senator Knox” compel him to refer to the “hundreds of crippled railroad employes and widows of crippled employes.”

Aye, indeed, “hundreds”—thousands would be no exaggeration, even if confined to railroads alone; “hundreds of thousands,” and, if widows and orphans are included, millions” would be truthful.

If there is one thing more than any other that every long-headed capitalist avoids touching upon it is the chapter of “accidents” suffered by their employes.

Why “accidents”? There is not one of these that could not be avoided—provided the cupola, which rests upon the Republican and Democratic political pillars, were a dome for the protection of the people, instead of being a dome that covers only the head of a plundering class—the capitalist class.

Why “accidents”? There is not one of these that could not be avoided—provided the Republican and Democratic pillars did not, in turn, rest and, of necessity, are compelled to rest, upon a ground-work of crippled workingmen, women and children.

In the railroad industries alone, there are mutilated and killed every four years a number of brakemen, engineers, firemen and switchmen equal to the total number of men employed in any one year.

Take all the industries—mines, factories and shops—and the holocaust of human beings, sacrificed every year to the Moloch of Capitalism, mounts to figures that eclipse the biggest pile of victims ever sacrificed to the bloodiest deity of the most bloody savage.

Capitalism, according to the President's own unconscious admission, is still up to its knees in human gore. So has Socialism long been declaring, proving, and confounding its cannibal foe with the proof.

When a Social System is rotten-ripe for overthrow, valuable aid is given in the work of overthrow by the beneficiaries and props thereof.

Try it again, Teddy!

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

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slpns@slp.org