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EDITORIAL

ALL LEVKINS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

LEVKIN, the Russian timber merchant who burnt down peasants' houses in order to boom the market for his lumber, did nothing out of the ordinary. He but acted of a piece with the conduct of his, the capitalist, class the world around.

They produce poverty in order to alleviate it. By paying the worker so little that he cannot live upon it unaided, they create the demand for charitable institutions. Then alms-houses, \$10,000,000 Sage Foundations, and \$500,000,000 Rockefeller dittos are obligingly supplied.

They produce sickness in order to cure it. By herding the worker in cities with hundreds of thousands of windowless rooms, by pinching his stomach from birthday to deathday, they give him one disease after another. Thus is created the need for hospitals, endowed by the Stokeses, the Roosevelts and the Vanderbilts.

They produce ignorance in order to poultice it. By snatching the worker from school and throwing him into the factory, by making his home such a crowded affair that reading and studying are impossible to him, the necessity is boomed for Carnegie libraries and Rockefeller Institutes.

They produce cripples in order to treat or straighten them. By depriving mothers of their proper nourishment, holding them to work at periods when to do so is criminal, and not by any means least, dragging them out of the home when their infants need the care, they rear large crops of injured children. What a field for Sea Breezes and St. John's Guilds is thus opened up!

They produce unemployment in order to institute state insurance against it. By ever-improving machinery they throw the worker upon the street. He is deprived of a chance to sell his labor power. Wide open are rolled the doors for "assurance contre le chomage," as they are now putting through in France.

So why rail at Levkin, who merely burnt peasants' houses that he might sell them lumber to build new ones?

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