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FIRST EDITORIAL

The Latest Use that the Proletariat is Put to.

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The proletariat has been turned to so many uses that one might think it were impossible to discover any further ways whereby the idle class of capitalists could derive comfort from the sufferings of the toilers and proletarians. But this seems to be an error. Besides using the proletariat to save the capitalists from labor; besides using the unemployed proletarians to press down the wages of the employed ones, and in that way afford the capitalists still greater wealth; besides using the proletariat to fight the nation's battles against nature and against foreign foes—besides these and many more uses, it has occurred to some that the proletariat may be used to draw experience from. A Society of Artificial Limbs, that has been formed to promote the beauty and effectiveness of artificial limbs, is about to hold a convention in St. Louis. It wants specimens of mutilated bodies to learn from, and in what direction did it turn to secure such specimens? It turned towards the labor unions and requested information from the maimed.

The society was guided by a right instinct. The camp of labor can furnish a large collection of maimed bodies in the most varied way imaginable. The recklessness of the capitalist class, where the lives of working people are concerned, transcends description. There is no better quarry from which to draw experience or objects to experiment on than the camp of labor. Thus the riotous capitalists, who, with the wealth they steal from labor, indulge in debauches that frequently have serious results on their limbs, will be able to minimize the inconveniences of maimages on their own persons with the aid of the mutilated limbs of their wage slaves, mutilated in the production of the very wealth on which the capitalists riot.

Great scheme! Logical development!

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

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