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EDITORIAL

## WEALTH-SWEATING CAPITALISTS.

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**W**OULD anyone like to gauge the average intelligence, on an international scale, of the capitalist intellectuals on the social economic question? Then let him turn to the *New York Evening Post*. The rest of the press, whether American or European, is, of course, capitalist as much as the *Post*, nevertheless whatever the circulation and general standing of this, that, or the other paper may be, the *Post* enjoys a unique “editorial” position internationally. In England as in America, it is looked upon by the capitalist world as the most intellectual of their journalistic productions, and the best capitalist dialectician. The way it is quoted by such continental writers as Leroy-Beaulieu shows that the Continent shares the opinion of Capitalist England and America. The *Post* is the best gauge of the average international capitalist intellect. Now, then, what says the *Post* concerning a leading corollary of the irrefutable Socialist principle that the capitalist is a parasite, pure and simple, doing no manner of work, therefore producing nothing, yet living on the fat of the land? This is the “argument” in refutation:

“All Socialist ideals are included in the ambition to despoil the capitalist. He is to pay everything. Who is to pay when the capitalist is finally abolished no Socialist ventures to predict.”

In other words:

“The ambition of the robbed is to despoil the robber, but the silly robbed should stay their silly hands. Let them consider that when the robber is finally abolished, the robbed could no longer pay their bills.”

That is the best capitalist dialectics can produce. And that is one of the luscious fruits of the capitalist intellect!

Implied in the *Post*’s dialectics is a “theory of economics” not less choice than the above “reasoning:”

If the final abolition of the capitalist is tantamount to a suspension of wealth production, the inevitable conclusion would be the economic theory that wealth is not the product of labor, but the spontaneous outgrowth of idleness; in short, that the genus capitalist is a wealth-sweater.

It were hard to determine which of the two—whether the *Post's* dialectics or its “theory of economics”—the dunce’s cap should be awarded to.

That cap gives the measure of the average intelligence of the Social Question possessed by the capitalist intellectuals.

Who will deny that, in the conflict between the two armies that are now organizing and drawing up against each other—one having a such a dunce’s-cap emblazoned on its banner, the banner of the other bearing the device “Labor Alone Produces All Wealth”—the former is bound to be annihilated, while the latter will triumphantly lead the race?

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

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