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EDITORIAL

AND YET PEOPLE WONDER!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Sub-Committee on Finance of the Ansonia, Conn., Board of Education has advised its Board to bar all children over sixteen years of age from the public schools. The recommendation is made in view of the retrenched appropriations. The effect of all this, if carried into effect, would be to cut two years from the high school course of four years; it probably would have the further effect of abolishing the course altogether. Hundreds of children would be thereby affected; their education being truncated, they would be driven to the factories, at any rate they would be thrown upon the world to earn their living without that intellectual equipment, that, admittedly, helps to fit the citizen to thread his way through life, and fulfill his social functions.—And this happens in a New England State, in a University State, in that portion of the country that vaunts itself upon its love of culture; and this happens, moreover, at the very time when Census bulletins and reports of Labor Bureaus, the Bureau of Connecticut included, combine in raising high the swelling figures of the nation's swelling wealth!

Nor do such considerations alone contribute to make the cup of indignation run over. The proposition originates with the Ansonia Mayor's Board of Appropriations. Now, the Mayor, Charters, and that Board WERE ELECTED AND APPOINTED FOR THEIR RECORD AS LEADERS OF PURE AND SIMPLE TRADES UNIONS AND AS REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR!—Accordingly, under the shield of Labor, besides the thing being done on New England soil, it is proposed to furnish the capitalist system of plundering the Working Class with a larger labor market, and the merchandise is to be reduced in the intellectual power needed to resist such plundering!

And yet these Gompers Trades Union leaders affect to be up in arms against "reducing the American workingman to the condition of Coolies through Chinese

immigration”!

And yet there are people naive enough to wonder at the fraternal relations established by the Industrial Peace Commission between its President Hanna and his Vice-President Gompers!

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