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EDITORIAL

THE PURE FOOD FIGHT.

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THIS is a country of infinite riches in the means of sustaining life. Varied and fertile in soil, it produces staple articles of food in excess of the needs of its inhabitants, enabling large cargoes to be annually shipped abroad. This, too, despite the ugly truth that immense quantities are yearly permitted to go to waste on every hand. Barely scratched, this country is capable of sustaining, by its agricultural resources alone, over a billion souls, or more than twelve times its present population. This country is pre-eminently a land of wholesome, natural, luxuriance and abundance.

Amid such conditions, it is logical to expect, a people will be found who subsist on none but the purest of Nature's products, and who, as a result thereof, enjoy naught but the most perfect of health. But such an expectation, though apparently logical, is far from the facts in the matter. Adulteration, with all its dangerous results upon health and life, is widely prevalent. So much is this the case that, it is reported from Washington, among the features of the coming Congress, there will be A FIGHT FOR A PURE-FOOD LAW. Efforts will be made to prevent or restrict adulteration, and thereby insure a greater measure of safety to health and life. These efforts will be strenuously fought, with the prospects that they will be successfully overcome, as the great packing trusts, and other food corporations, wield a tremendous power in Congress.

This is truly a situation worthy of serious contemplation. How comes this anomaly—this fight for pure food, where pure food is not only abundant, but also excessive; and where, were it not excessive, there are natural resources at hand that will admit of its manifold augmentation, thus permitting the removal of whatever defect in the way of a shortage that may exist? The reason is plain. Food production is a social necessity, socially organized, but privately-owned. Being privately-owned

it is exploited in the interests of the private individuals constituting the owners. These compete for the dominant control. Adulteration, as a means to this end, is a result. Again, taking the matter from another side, we see the majority of the people, the working class, robbed of four-fifths of their products by the capitalist class, and, as a consequence, so poorly paid that adulteration alone can meet the requirements of their pilfered purses.

The remedy is obvious: food production must be fully-rounded: social ownership must be added to social organization and necessity. The latter demands it. So also must the working class be accorded the full products of its labor, so that it may encourage the creation of none but pure foods. In brief, in food production, as in all other spheres of life where production for capitalist profit, or Capitalism, prevails, production for social use, or Socialism, must take its place. Then the incongruities of the present condition of affairs will cease to be in evidence.

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

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