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EDITORIAL

COMMUNISM WITH HORSES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

DID the Civic Club of Hartford, Conn., mean to make an exhibition of the capitalist cry against communism, when, on the 4th of this month, it gave Miss Heilman, who is working under the direction of the Club as an inspector of tenement houses, an opportunity to report in public what she had found in private?

This is what Miss Heilman found in the New England city of Hartford as a part of her findings:

In 303 buildings there were 2,089 families housed, or about 11,000 persons; 87 families, or about 435, using closets in common; in one place 24 persons living in 3 rooms; 18 families, or 90 persons, using one yard, and 52 of these persons being children who “share the yard with 4 horses and a number of chickens.”

Communism the bourgeois decries as very bad—nothing can be worse. Apart from religion, the State and other things, Communism, our bourgeois tell us, will destroy the family. To sum up the evils of communism, it shatters individualism, and that, we are warned, is what Socialism would lead to.

Hitherto we thought we understood what was that our ruling class objected to when it objected to class war. Hitherto we thought we understood what it favored when it favored the brotherhood of Capital and Labor. We erred. Socialism does not contemplate the sharing of lodgings with horses and chickens. Obviously what our bourgeois understands by the brotherhood of Capital and Labor is that state of society in which fraternal relations exist between man and beast, to the extent of their yarding in common, and of thousands of people crowding together so that the capabilities of their individualism may be communistically developed.

Did the Civic Club of Hartford mean to expose, or did it mean to promote the cause of capitalism by unveiling the communism of beast and working class that is

latent in it, as exemplified in one of its leading New England cities?

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org