

EDITORIAL

## LAUNDRIES AND RAILWAYS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** FEW months ago the *Daily People* produced and commented upon the report made by the Board of Directors of the Boston and Albany Railway, wherein the stockholders were informed of the rapacity of the railroad employes, whose insistence upon higher wages would reduce dividends, seeing that, after payment of the interest on the bonds and other “operating expenses,” what was left over would not net the usual dividends. In substance, the report set forth the claim that interest on bonds belonged under the head of “operating expenses,” just the same as wages.

The brazen novelty of the theory that the interest on bonds, which can only be met by unpaid wages squeezed out of the railroad wage slaves, are “operating expenses”; the brazen novelty of the proposition that the interest due on the bonds is entitled to priority of consideration before wages can be considered; in fine, the brazen novelty of the posture that, tho’ “Capital and Labor are brothers,” Capital is the elder brother, and deserving, by “right of primo-geniture,” first solicitude, Brother Labor being entitled to the dregs that may be left of the solicitude;—such brazen novelty, and novel brazenness was probably considered a natural enough bit of impudence with Monopoly, especially Railroad Monopoly, but impossible of being attempted by industries of humbler stamp, and surely not by any industry as yet untrustified.

To those who indulged the delusion, some of the utterances wrung by the present mammoth Laundry Strike from the Laundry Employers must have been a rude shock.

Mr. Julius Langfelder, the president of the newly organized Laundry Employers, made on the 3rd of this month a statement for publication to the effect that “the conditions the representatives of the union proposed were intolerable.” Why so? Be-

cause, after payment of “interest on investments” and the higher wages demanded “we could not have any money left to represent profit to ourselves”—the identical theory advanced by the Boston and Albany Railway Directorate.

In whatever aspect, Capital is Capital. Whether invested in pretentious Railroads, or in unpretentious Laundries. Capital is IT—first to be considered—first to be kept in shape, with Labor, the labored theory concerning the “Brotherhood of Capital and Labor” not withstanding, entitled to whatever crumbs and bones are left over.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded December 2012

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