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EDITORIAL

## THE USES OF ANNA.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**T is a favorite nursery yarn of capitalist pundits to say that "Nature provides for the dispersement of wealth when it is congested, upon the same principle that Nature provides for the dispersement of congested vapors in the air." The career of Mme. Anna Gould punctures the yarn.

About fifteen years ago Anna Gould married the French Count of Castellane. How congested the wealth in the Gould family was may be judged from the circumstance that Anna's dower amounted to \$15,000,000. Did her marrying and taking her dower disperse the congested wealth? Not at all. The cow, so to speak, in whom the wealth was congested, remained "undispersed" in the hands of the family executors—George, Edwin, Howard and Helen Gould. What was "dispersed" was, at best, the share of the plentiful milk (dividends) that fell to Anna. How thoroughly "undispersable" the capital itself was and is appears from the very fact of the extravagant dispersement of Anna's share. The Count her husband, and no less she herself, made ducks and drakes of her share of the yield of dividends. Red granite palaces, renaissance style, were built; complexionists made rich harvests by "unhairing" the Countess's countenance; chemicalists carried off fat fees turning her hairs' color; "Madame XX," the Count's noble paramour, re-blossomed into beauty; electorates were bribed for votes to seat members of his family in the French Chamber of Deputies, etc., etc. That milk WAS dispersed, but the cow remained hale and sound, and even gathered size and weight.

Well, that episode came to an end. The Countess and the Count parted company. She is back home. Helie de Talleyrand-Perigord, Prince de Sagan, and she "contracted an attachment" for each other. She came back to her American plantation; he followed her; she wishes to marry him; her family objects; the "holy capitalist family" is once more riven; she takes up her abode at the Hotel Regis, and

from there threatens a suit for more—what? For a bigger slice of the cow? No. For a larger quantity of the milk and cream.

In the course of his great speech in the Senate, La Follette said “capital attracts capital.”<sup>1</sup> There is no such thing as “dispersing,” with capital. And right it is that there isn’t. Concentrated capital means improved methods; improved methods means larger yield with less effort. That’s just what civilization is after. Only, that capitalist concentration is not a resting, it is a transitory point. The resting point is reached when those who really produced that wealth, the Working Class, organized in the Socialist Labor Party, shall proclaim the Socialist Republic, and, organized in the I.W.W., shall be in condition to enforce their ballot by assuming the reins of Government.

Anna has her uses. Her conspicuousness helps to teach.

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

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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)

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<sup>1</sup> [Identify, etc.]