

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## A CHARITY PRODUCT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**O**NE James Ford, who is advertised as “one of the best known authorities on mendicants in this country,” and long an officer of the Charity Organization Society, is moving for the incorporation of a National Association that is to conduct the work “under broader lines.” What the “broader lines” are Mr. James Ford’s application for incorporation explains in detail.

The Association is to “investigate the causes and effects of destitution”; it is to inquire into the sources and the consequences of “homelessness, vagrancy and mendicancy”; it is to consider new methods for the “discouragement of mendicancy, begging and imposture”; finally, it is to “promote the physical and moral rehabilitation of individuals and prevent them becoming vagrants, tramps,” etc.

Is Mr. James Ford a Rip Van Winkle? Is he not aware that the “causes of destitution” have been amply investigated; have been found to be that social system that fatedly plunders the masses of the wealth they produce and concentrates the same in the hands of a few? Has he never heard that the “effects of destitution” are,—at one end of the line—a mass of people who, their living depending upon the sweet will and general incapacity of a class of plunderers, necessarily become improvident, and that improvidence breeds a large brood of Drunkenness, Prostitution, Insanity and Crime; and—at the other end of the line—an elite few, who, being gorged with affluence, through plunder, are likewise steeped in Immorality, Insanity and Crime? Did it never reach Mr. Ford’s attention that homelessness breeds the “bum”? Has he not yet learned the lesson that the promotion of the physical and moral rehabilitation of the individual depends upon his facility to earn his living and enjoy the fruit of his labor? In other words, did Mr. Ford never make acquaintance with American Colonial history whose pages are eloquent on the subject, British “branded criminals” here speedily having become

founders of "First Families of Virginia," just so soon as their living was assured?

Once again is Mr. James Ford a Rip Van Winkle?

Not at all. The gentleman is a specimen product of Charity Organization training. As Charity begins at home, Mr. James Ford is charitably looking for a sinecure job for himself.

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