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EDITORIAL

## THE MEAT RIOTS.

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**T**HERE are as yet no meat riots; but these are in sight, and may be expected to break out any moment. Whether there is at this season virility enough to manifest itself even in the folly of physical riots or not, the intellectual riot is on; and well does it illustrate the general mental bankruptcy that, with the exception of the Socialist Labor Party press, the rest of the press, the Socialist party press leading, have left the public mind in.

Already in a previous article it was shown that the rise in prices is a natural economic manifestation, which, rooted in the economic law of exchange-value, is manifesting itself the world over. The increased production of gold, implies a decreased amount of labor-power in the metal on the market, and that results in a decrease of the value that money has in exchange with other commodities. A certain amount of gold having to-day less value than the given amount of meat, or any other commodity in the market, with which it was formerly exchangeable, more gold has now to be paid for the same.

The policy of presenting this economic law finds favor hardly anywhere, outside of the camp of the S.L.P. As has been shown on a previous occasion, the policy can find no favor in the Top Bourgeois camp: to the Top-Bourgeois such a policy spells suicide. To the middle class bourgeois, on the other hand, with his dense ignorance and abiding faith in cheating as the soul of commerce, the policy is incomprehensible; he feels himself "outraged"; he imagines the trick of cheating, which he would practice on others, is being successfully practiced upon him; with the blindness of his class he gathers "burlood in his eyes," and rants about "freedom." Finally, with the S.P. agitator and press, the policy presents itself somewhat different. Partly unfit to handle the problem; partly out of fear to lose the public ear by the exposition of principles that run counter to public notions; and

partly victims to the delusion that the way to capture votes is to echo the superstitions of the voters;—due to these several and combined causes S.P. spokespersonship is joining the general howl which lends itself, moreover, so much more easily to declamatory hot-air and penny-a-liner editorial output.

Of course. along these lines, none but the Top-Capitalist can win out in the end, so long as capitalism is in the saddle. In the meantime, however, not only the Top-Capitalist and his fellow bourgeois on the lower rungs of the capitalist ladder, but, along with them the S.P. pure and simple political, hence, bourgeois-striped busybodies, will have occasion to experience the correctness of the Marxian warning that the exploiting classes have every reason to fear the ignorance of the Working Class.

In the ripeness of time, and athwart the hurdles of meat and other riots, the above many-colored gentry will also be able to read, by the blaze of the triumphant S.L.P. torch, the second part of the Marxian dictum—“and the exploiting classes have everything to dread from the intelligence of the Working Class.”

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