

EDITORIAL

RISE AND FALL OF FRATERNITY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE special report of the Bureau of the Census on street and electric railways for 1907, just issued, has a table—Table 160—that should settle for all time the vexed question whether or not there are fraternal relations, reciprocal interests, as Mr. John Mitchell calls it, between employer and employe, capitalist and wage slave.

Table 160 reads like a map. It gives the “employe and wage statistics of operating companies, classified according to income from railway operations.” That is a good classification.

If, as the Socialists insist, there are no fraternal relations between capitalist and wage slave, and that the fatter the former all the leaner the latter, then the figures will show that, in the measure the Companies’ income rises, the wage slave’s wages decline.

If, on the contrary, as Press, Pulpit, Professors and Politicians claim, there are fraternal relations between the employer and employe, and that the fatter the former all the plumper the latter, then the figures must show that, in the measure the Companies’ income increases, the employes’ wages soar upwards.

Here are the figures for conductors:

The poorest Companies considered are those with an income less than \$100,000. With these Companies the average wages of conductors is \$559. This is the starting point.

The next Companies considered are those with an income of \$100,000 or more, but less than \$250,000. With these Companies the average wages of conductors is \$594. Why, \$35 more! First round, with the Socialist knocked *down*.

The next higher Companies considered are those with an income of \$250,000 or more, but less than \$500,000. With these Companies the average wages of

conductors is \$635. Why, again more—\$41 more. Second round, with the Socialist again knocked *down*. The bout seems to be going against our Socialist.

The next higher Companies considered are those with an income of \$500,000 or more, but less than \$1,000,000. With these Companies the average wages of conductors is \$667. Another Increase! Why, where is our Socialist? Third round, and once more he is knocked *down*.

The next higher and last Companies considered are those whose income is \$1,000,000 and over. With these Companies the average wages of conductors is \$644,—and the anti-Socialist is knocked OUT.

In other words. Table 160 shows that when the Companies are so small that their income falls below \$100,000, then Brother Capital pines fraternally along with Brother Labor. The Table proceeds to show that in the measure the Companies are richer, and up to the time when their income touches \$500,000, that is, when their income is 400 per cent. larger, the fraternal relations between Capital and Labor continue, after a fashion,—Brother Capital reciprocating its more than 400 per cent. higher affluence with about 19 per cent. higher income to Brother Labor. The Table finally reaches the point which the ingenious Artemus Ward depicts orthographically as the grand “climbacks.” When a Company’s income is \$1,000,000 and over, that is, when its income is 900 per cent., or more, larger than that of the small fry Companies; or, in other words, when a Company has graduated into Top-Capitalism, then the ladder of Fraternity, with the aid of which Brother Capital attained the upmost round, is turned the back to, and the base degrees by which the ascent was performed are scorned. Then the former reciprocity, however measly, comes to a dead stop. Then not only is there no reciprocal increase for Brother Labor, but the reciprocity is inverted; it is turned upside down;—and Fraternity falls like Lucifer, never to rise again.

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