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EDITORIAL

A GHASTLY EXHIBIT.

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IN the *Cigarmakers' Official Journal* for October 15 there appears, under the caption "Death Benefits Paid," a list of 325 deceased members, together with the cause of their death. In the long array of causes given, in which lung and heart diseases lead, one is horrified to find no less than nine cases of paresis, lunacy and insanity, and eleven cases of SUICIDE. For so small a number of deaths this is truly a ghastly exhibit.

What does this ghastly exhibit of insanity and suicide disclose? A life fraught with worry and despair. A life in which the hardships encountered in the struggle for existence destroys the mind, and in which the only avenue of escape is through the door of self-inflicted death.

In most modern industrial occupations there is an increased mortality among the workers owing to the intensification of labor, and the increased severity of capitalist conditions in general. The cigarmaking industry is one of the worst of these in this respect, and, to judge from this ghastly exhibit, it is one of the most horrible.

It is these conditions, so destructive of the sanity and life of the cigarmakers, that the Perkinses, and Gomperses and the other labor fakirs at the head of the Cigarmakers' International Union are pledged to support. These notorious labor fakirs, when they preach the identity of interests between capital and labor and aid middle-class capitalism to combat trust capitalism, seek to perpetuate the system of industry, responsible for the worry and the despair that destroy the minds and lives of the cigarmakers. They are accessories to the crime of capitalism!

Throw them off, cigarmakers! Work for the new trades unionism, that declares there can be no identity of interests between the capitalist who expropriates labor and the workingman who is expropriated, and who, in place of wealth, reaps

insanity and suicide. Work for Socialism, which aims to end such ghastly exhibits as cigarmaking presents by introducing the collective ownership of capital and the collective distribution of wealth, under which labor will secure all its products, the robber capitalist class will be abolished, and peace, plenty and happiness for all will reign.

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