

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 37.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## THE “EXPANDING VISTA.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** LOS ANGELES statistician, Walter J. Ballard by name, has made his appearance in print with a string of figures footing up deep into the billions, with the aid of which the gentleman considers himself “safe in forecasting” the tremendously increased wealth of the land, given in detail for the leading industries, in the year 1920.

Even statisticians have an inkling that their figures rather tend to confuse the average reader; hence statisticians are frequently seen to sum up their totals in English. Not infrequently these “totals” are blunders. Mr. Ballard is not an exception to the rule. His “total” in English is: “To Labor they [the figures] should present an ever expanding vista of remunerative employment.”

The footing is a blunder.

The larger the amount of wealth in the possession of the employing class, all the smaller are the earnings of the employed class, all the more precarious their living, all the more abject their dependence.

The quantity of privately owned wealth used under capitalism is a plumb-line with which to fathom the depth of Labor’s degradation. The more towering the waves of such wealth, all the deeper down and away from the surface lies Labor submerged.

The larger the amount of wealth in the hands of the capitalist class, the greater the power of the capitalist class. Larger and larger amounts of such wealth, all the more intense must concentration become. In the measure that the wealth at the disposal of employerdom increases, the supply of labor power also increases above the demand in the labor market. An accompanying phenomenon of huger and huger piles of private wealth being higher prices, wages may rise, nominally, but earnings decrease. The long and short of the story is a proletariat ever worse and worse

underfed and underclothed, with vast herds of them reduced to the state of menials. The swelling figures of privately owned wealth, marshalled by Mr. Ballard for 1920 present an expanding vista, not of remunerating employment, but of ever more unrequited toil, unless—

Unless, Mr. Walter J. Ballard speaks in riddles, and, the “expanding vista” of good times that he totals up for Labor is the vista of the working class—enlightened, organized and disciplined by experience—marshalled in the political and industrial battalions that will overthrow the capitalist system with its expanding vistas of popular starvation and degradation, and inaugurate the Socialist Republic with its expanding vista of welfare for the workers, and, in the language of St. Paul, withhold food, decree death to any who would not work.

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

Uploaded by Donna Bills, September 2010

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