

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 342.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1913.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## SOCIOLOGIC INCISIVENESS.

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**T**HIS passage occurs in the report of the May 11 session of the National Committee of the Socialist party, as published in the June issue of the *Chicago International Socialist Review*.

“Victor Berger being now on the unemployed list, the Committee voted to pay his fare to Europe [to the International Socialist Bureau.] They also voted to pay his return fare.”

We know that some will hold the wording of the passage to be merely a manifestation of the reporter’s spleen towards Berger and those who circle around him on the S.P. National Committee. And they who hold that way may be right. It is also possible that they are wrong. It is quite possible that the wording of the passage flowed from profound knowledge of social science.

In their endeavor to justify their plunder of the Working Class, capitalists, it is well known, set up a variety of claims to wealth-productive activity. As everybody who knows anything in economics knows, the claims are false pretence. On the industrial field the capitalist, with rare exceptions, is an idler: he is a luxuriating “unemployed.”

Nevertheless, the capitalist is not an idler wholly. As a class, he is active on a certain field. The usual name of that field is “political.” On the political field—the field peculiar to the political State—the field that rises out of the Ocean of Social Evolution, like submarine islands which slowly emerge from and raise their peaks above the surrounding waters,—the field on which a Master Class first comes to open view as a necessity for order, both among the Masters and among themselves and over the mastered,—upon that, the political field, the capitalist is no idler, he often rivals bees as a busy body.

Now, then, whereas, what with his stocks, bonds and other “properties,” Berger is essentially a capitalist whose living comes, like all capitalists’, from withheld wages, the only field on which the gentleman could really be busy is the “political.” But, whereas, Berger has lost his job in Congress, it certainly follows that he now is “on the unemployed list.”

To define a capitalist who is out of a political job as a person “on the unemployed list” is an incisive sociologic truth. The *International Socialist Review*’s reporter of the report of the May 11 meeting of the S.P. National Committee may or may not have intended to be sociologically incisive. We shall give her the benefit of the doubt.

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Uploaded August 2015

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