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EDITORIAL

DECIDEDLY PIQUANT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

DESPATCHES from Paris, on the recent elections held in France for the Chamber of Deputies, say that one of the piquant results is “the election of Count Boni de Castellane, the son-in-law of the late Jay Gould, together with the brothers of the Count.” And the despatches quote one of the papers as saying: “Napoleon carved kingdoms for his brothers; Count Boni carves for them seats in the Chamber of Deputies.”—It certainly is decidedly piquant.

Here in America, an army of surely not less than 10,000 workingmen and women are toiling and moiling in the telegraph offices owned by the Goulds and along the tracks of vast railroad systems that they control. For their work, this army of American citizens get barely enough to keep body and soul together—the chances of their being maimed and killed off being thrown in for good measure. All the surplus of their labor goes to the Goulds, who do no manner of useful work, whether physical or intellectual, towards producing the huge dividends that they appropriate under the system of legalized plunder, known as Capitalism. Once in their hands, the plunder is divided between the four or five brothers and sisters. One of these is the precious Anne, wife of Count Boni.

One would think that there was piquancy enough in the circumstances of American citizens being, and allowing themselves to be, bled for the purpose of keeping in luxury a worthless limb of the worthless European nobility. But there seems to be no end to the piquancy that American Capitalism, combined with fakir-ridden free American Labor, can give rise to. Not only does this free American Labor keep in idleness and red marble palaces a sprig of the nobility, but it enables him to win elections to the Chamber of Deputies where he is given a chance to oppress its fellows, the French working class; and not only that, but it places in his hands the means to gather more recruits in the French Chamber for his nefarious work: it enables him to get a batch of his brothers there!

Is that not piquant?

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