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EDITORIAL

ON THE MARCH TO THE POOR HOUSE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE personal tax list for 1904 in this city settles two questions: it settles the fact that Socialism is practically demonstrated a false theory, and it settles the fact that our millionaires, these much abused and traduced martyrs, are on the march to the poor-house.

For instance, there is John Jacob Astor. Last year he was assessed on \$2,000,000 personal property. This year his assessment is on \$300,000 only—in one year the deary is poorer by \$1,700,000!

There is Robert Walton Goelet. Last year he owned \$500,000 worth of personal property, on which he was assessed. This year the assessors find him shrunk to \$150,000 only!

There is August Belmont. Last year the happy possessor of \$350,000, he is this year down to \$100,000.

Lo, the much traduced Rockefellers! While last year John D. Rockefeller, Jr., prided himself in \$500,000 personal property, he must this year be content on \$100,000 only, and his kin William Rockefeller, fared even worse: his \$1,000,000 of last year have since shriveled to a miserable \$300,000.

And Alfred G. Vanderbilt! Just think of it! His last year's \$1,500,000 have dwindled down to \$250,000.

And so forth and so on.

These items should make good texts for Carroll D. Wright, Prof. Green Goods,¹ Father Doyle and the rest of the self sacrificing gentlemen, who are wearing themselves to a bone to make clear to the masses the errors of Socialism. The above items should silence the idle talk about the rich growing richer, and the poor poorer.

¹ [A reference to William H. Mallock (1849-1923), professional apologist for cappitalism.—R.B.]

If a millionaire of one year is taxed the next only on a quarter of a million personal property, is he not poorer by fully three-quarters of a million? And must not some other fellow or fellows have come into the possession of that \$700,000? And, seeing that “the trend is the pauperization of the rich,” who but the poor got the spray?—The demonstration is conclusive.

And let every good Christian man and American patriot join in frowning down the pestiferous spirit, that, “always intent on discovering a nigger in the pile” may sneer at the above figures and facts, and build out of them a labored argument to show that the said figures and facts only go to prove how completely the rich own the government that they dictate assessments, how useless they are becoming that they even shirk taxation, and how dishonest they are that they make false statements.

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