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EDITORIAL

## A CHAMBER OF HORRORS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE exhibition that capitalist society is making of itself is presenting the “best of all possible social systems” in its true light.

In regular chamber of horror style, the Gerry Society is keeping children from their parents and collecting one dollar a week for the keep of children, who are dead; millionaire directors are found “holding up” policyholders for a rake off of twenty-five dollars; directors of the gas company stand convicted of false swearing to escape taxes, of false book-keeping to escape other State laws, of false capitalization and of charging three times the cost of production; the Secretary of the Navy stands convicted of having violated the law in the matter of rebates when he was a director of the Santa Fe Road; the Standard Oil stands exposed of highway robbery on the sneak system; four hundred thousand children are shown to have been poisoned by food adulterations, and disease untold is proven to be traceable to the poisonous ingredients that the millionaire food producers adulterate their goods with; the City Traction Company operates its trains with reckless disregard of the travelers’ comforts; not less than nineteen mine explosions, one hundred and thirty-five factory accidents, and twenty-nine railroad collisions have taken place during the last fortnight, aggregating more than two hundred killed and wounded; in the mean time capitalist officialdom, from judges down or up, are being convicted of cheating, peculating and otherwise dishonoring themselves;—all for dividends or cash in some sort.

Why go to any dime museum to look at chambers of horror? The nation is one huge Chamber of Horrors, with the capitalist class at the door, beating the drum and acting as pullers-in.

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

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