EDITORIAL

JOAQUIM AGAIN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

READERS of The People have been made acquainted with Mr. Joaquim Croyern, a gentleman to whom the New York Evening Post granted a full column wherein to set forth his conviction that Socialism had to be combated, and that the way to do the combating was to raise a $10,000,000 fund, wherewith to set up an institution for the training of anti-Socialist propagandists, the said in institution to be headed by a Director with a $20,000 salary. Joaquim did not say that he should be the $20,000 Director. He meant it all the same. On the parliamentary principle that the mover for the appointment of a committee should be the chairman thereof, Joaquim was to be Director.

The $10,000,000 fund should be raised; the institution should be established; and Joaquim should be the Director. From top to bottom the thing would be a monumental pillorying of the capitalist mind.

In man’s savage state he is known to kill an ox for the sake of a pound of its meat; he fells a tree for the sake of a few of its high-branched fruit. Wastefulness is a feature of savagery. Capitalism, though far removed from the original state of savagery, still retains the original feature of wastefulness.

The amount of wealth produced to-day, huge as it is, bears no comparison to that which is actually producible. The forces of Labor available are only partially utilized: perpetually large numbers of the workers are kept in idleness; the mechanical instruments of production are deliberately kept below what they could be lest production be so plentiful as to reduce prices and thereby profits; inventions in great numbers are bought from the inventors, not infrequently stolen, and then kept under lock and key lest they “affect the market”; competition squanders human energy; of the labor employed, almost 50 per cent. is utterly unproductive of anything desirable; and so forth and so on. Considering what can be done, and
comparing that with what is done, the conclusion is justified that wastefulness is still a feature of society. The capitalist, in order to preserve his petty self, sacrifices and squanders the nation’s powers.

With these facts as a background, what more appropriate than a $10,000,000 fund to furnish Joaquim with a $20,000 income? The movement would hold the centre of the stage. It would be a symbol of things as they are—a “thing of beauty,” to fascinate the Joaquims, and to inspire the Socialists with added indignation to end the nuisance in the shortest time possible.