EDITORIAL

EDUCATION AND AMUSEMENT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

BEGINNING with next November 11, and continuing for six days, the city of Paterson is promised a solid week of “education and amusement.” The treat is to be furnished by the Paterson Business Men’s Industrial and Pure Food Exposition. The announcement is supplemented with the information that leading canning concerns of the country have already applied for space in the big auditorium. The conclusion is as justified as it is obvious that the Canning Section of Capitalism, evidently aided by the other Sections, is about to indulge itself in a philanthropic display with the population of Paterson as the object of the philanthropy in question.

We propose not to be outdone in philanthropy. Free, gratis and for nothing we shall furnish the philanthropists in question with some hints—valuable hints we take our hints to be.

One day, three sessions back, the House of Representatives presented a unique appearance. The casual visitor would think he had inadvertently strayed into some large wholesale and retail grocery store. Pyramids of cans, with their well known uniforms of gorgeous labels were upon a number of desks. The debate was on food adulteration. And those were the exhibits, too.

There were cans of “Vermont Maple Sugar” that had been distilled in Michigan; cans of “Prime Buckwheat Flour” that had been filled with marble dust; jars of “Prime Clover Honey” (with a dead bee as evidence floating in the liquid) that, by actual measurement never had been within sixteen miles of a beehive; cans of “Choice Meat Extract” that almost barked; cans of “Genuine Bologna. Sausage” that one could hear neigh; and so forth, and so on.

A dollar to a doughnut, more than one canning concern, whose products figured on that memorable occasion on the desks in the House of Representatives, will fig-
ure again at the Paterson exposition. Why not render the affair complete by exhibiting some canned “Taft politics,” “canned Roosevelt teeth,” canned “Wilson Antiquity,” and canned “S.P. Socialism,” and placing in the center of the hall a huge can labelled “Canned Education and Amusement.”