

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## POOR FELLOWS!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**P**EOPLE who talk about “over-production,” who assign that as the cause of the existing rips in the social structure and of the worse rips threatened, and who imagine that when they have said that they have said something, are such a blunderbussy set that it would seem risky ever to declare that they have reached “the limit.” And yet, could there be any “beyond” to “the limit” reached by the Washington correspondent of the *New York Sun*? Writing on the American export trade this pundit says:

“While our people are generally employed and fairly prosperous, the fact remains that comparatively few of our mills and factories are operated to their full productive capacity.”

What conclusion would be drawn from these premises by a thinking man other than this:

“If ‘over-production’ is an evil, as the writer declares, and if ‘our people are generally employed and fairly prosperous’ even now when ‘comparatively few of our mills and factories are operated at their full productive capacity,’ why, then, the only thing to do is to leave well enough alone, not to fool with fire, and in that way continue our people ‘generally employed and fairly prosperous.’”

But, no, the *Sun*’s correspondent considers that such a state of things as “the mills and factories not being operated to their full productive capacity” is an evil that must and can be remedied by—what? Here is his answer:

“By more extensive markets outside of our national boundary lines.”

Indeed? Suppose that “more extensive markets” would be a good thing, how could we fill them if it is true that “our people are generally employed and fairly

prosperous”? If this latter is true, where are the large additions of “hands” to come from that will be needed in the “operation of our mills and factories to their full productive capacity”? And inversely, if, indeed, we have a sufficiency of idle “hands” to so operate our mills and factories, what becomes of the allegation that “our people are generally employed and prosperous”? A people “generally employed and prosperous” have none or a very small number of unemployed. Where the unemployed are abundant, abundant enough to operate our mills and factories “to their full productive capacity,” few of them being now so operated—where such is the case, there can be no “generally employed and fairly prosperous” working class. The two things do not go together.

We care not on which of the two horns of the dilemma the *Sun's* over-production wise-acre prefers to impale himself. His fix is the ludicrous one in which ever will be found the genus “capitalist economist vulgaris” when he takes up economic questions—particularly so if he be of the species “over-production-clap-trap.”

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