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EDITORIAL

POLLUTION AT THE ROOT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

The results of long experiments upon the nutritive effects of alcohol, made by a Professor of Wesleyan University, have been published this week. The report pronounces the potential energies of alcohol to be equal to the potential energies of bread, meat or any other ordinary food materials. Is this discovery valuable? That depends upon its truthfulness. To-day “scientific declarations” upon such subjects come to the lay public polluted at their very roots.

It is an evidence of the demoralization, spread about by capitalism, that views upon subjects of great moment to health and life and happiness can not be accepted with the confidence that is requisite. Only the specialist can KNOW on such subjects; the outside masses can not. Shall they believe? Shall they disbelieve? Never will their minds be so framed as to repose confidence in the utterances of others even on subjects that these have knowledge of, unless they may rely upon their disinterestedness. That reliance Capitalism destroys.

Scientists’ signatures pronouncing “pure” articles of food that are wholesale adulterations; scientists’ signatures guaranteeing the healing qualities of quack medicines; scientists’ endorsements of patent nonsense; scientists’ recommendations of “watering places” that are no “watering places”;—these and other experiences of similar nature are so numerous as to establish the fact that Science has been brought down to the bargain counter, for sale at so much a yard, a pint or a pound. And such (who knows!) is the recent scientific discovery at Wesleyan University. There might be thousands of dollars in it from the Whiskey Trust to the “discoverer.” the discovery may be genuine, but demoralization is absolutely so; so absolutely so as to tower high above it.

Capitalism, at its present stage of rotten-ripeness, is essentially a polluter. It pollutes the sources of thought and of feelings. It turns society into a pawnbroker’s

shop where nothing, nothing can be taken but at its market value; where the Medal of Honor and the burglar's jimmy, a book of poetry and a bundle of unsold yellow journals are all reduced to one common level.

The dignity of the race awaits the overthrow of the system that, by rendering unsafe the material needs of man, pinions the wings of his moral aspirations.

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

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