

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## IMPROVED SURGERY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE surgeon has so advanced his art that he can to-day perform, with little fear of disastrous consequences, operations which were once looked upon as certain to result in death. The list of capital operations has been cut in half, and new appliances, new methods, and new remedies have resulted in a partial triumph of surgery over death.

While the surgeon has been busy, the capitalist has not been idle. He, too, has been eliminating many difficulties. He can cut now and slash nearer to the vital point than he could a few years ago. He can draw more blood without killing the patient. He can diet the patient to a point that once meant starvation. He runs no danger in this; and in fact, the more he slices and cuts away, the fatter he, himself, grows.

The latest capitalist appliance shows an improvement on the old. It leads the person to be operated upon to furnish the instruments, sharpen them, and then use them on himself. The Perham-Stickney Loom Company, of Lowell, Massachusetts, has made an offer to all mill hands to take stock in their new loom. It says in its advertisements:—"The Perham Loom produces as much cloth in eight hours as the most rapid of all other looms produces in ten hours.—How can the hours of labor in textile establishments be reduced without loss either to operatives or to owners?—The shares of the Perham Stickney Company, at \$10, full-paid and non-assessable, are within the reach of the operatives in textile establishments, and are for many obvious reasons such shares as they should wish to own."

It also says that the reason for offering these shares is that many prominent manufacturers wish to "harmonize capital and labor," and the best way to do it is to have the men who work, own part of the machinery on which they work. But there is no provision, after the looms have left the machine shop, for any control of them. On the contrary, the operative helps to pay for them, but he does not directly help to buy them or to place them. He fats up a company, directed by his employers, he

turns in part of his wages to float a company that makes a labor-saving machine, and his reward will be a lessened opportunity to work. This would be an excellent thing under the right conditions, but under present conditions it is simply an intensification of hell. The Lowell mill hands work now not more than seven months in the year, and with that time reduced by a fifth and no increase in wages—they would be even worse off. He who has a memory to remember and eyes to see, cannot fail to perceive at the other end of the vista, opened by this latest improvement in capitalist energy, the bloody tragedy of employees committing suicide, which served as the orchestration to the drama of the downfall of the Dolgeville, N.Y., Dolge “profit sharing” mill,—that much vaunted illustration of how Capital and Labor can be harmonized.

Capitalism is capable of leading man to any crime. It would lead him to murder a fellow being in order that he might later on rob the pennies from his eyes, or it would lead him to sandbag his own mother, or sell his own child in the market place.

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