

EDITORIAL

THE SUEZ CANAL JUNKET.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHO was it “paid” the \$130,000 that it cost to toll our homing squadron through the Suez Canal?

It hardly could have been “paid” by the proletariat: they did not have the sum in their pockets. It surely was not paid by the capitalist class out of their own product: they produce nothing.

Who, then, paid it? Where did it come from? What does it all mean?

Where did the \$130,000 come from?—It came out of the hide of the working class. It is the money equivalent of the marrow and bone of the wage slave class of the land, crystallized in the goods that the amount will fetch.

Who paid the \$130,000?—The amount was paid by the capitalist class. It was paid by their political mace-bearers out of that portion of the wealth, which, though produced by Labor, and Labor only, never entered the pockets of Labor. It was paid out of that portion of Labor’s product that is plundered from Labor in the shop itself by the lego-economic¹ contrivance known as “wage slavery.”

What does it all mean?—It does look odd, at first blush, that a capitalist class, which periodically yells against taxes, and demands their reduction, should indulge in such excesses as involve a \$130,000 expenditure that must be taxed out of their plunder. Odd as the sight may seem, the oddness is in seeming only.

Taxes are but a manifestation of capitalist debauchery. Plunderers are both misers and squanderers. The same Bradley-Martin, who will cheese-pare in one direction, will lavishly spend in {on} a luxurious ball. The identical Seeley, who will cut into the quick to save one day, will squander thousands in a supper of

¹ [The Latin word *lego* can mean to gather, choose, collect, pass through, read, appoint, or select. Here it would seem to mean “pass through,” i.e., that wage slavery is only a passing phase in human economic development.—R.B.]

debauchery. Ditto, ditto, in the instance of the globe-circumnavigating junket of “our” navy, which has reached the Suez Canal stage, and been there made to pay through the nose.

Seeley suppers, Bradley-Martin balls, Wanamakers’ Paris dinners, etc., etc., these are all birds of a feather with Suez Canal prodigalities.

Labor “pays the piper”—in the sense that it all comes out of Labor’s hide—and there is supposed to be more coming for ever and for aye.

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