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EDITORIAL

CARNEGIE'S INTERNATIONAL MORTGAGE.

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THE \$10,000,000 "Foundation for Peace," just given by Carnegie, is the cornerstone of the many gifts ranging from one hundred into a million-and-odd that have been proceeding from the same source during the last ten or fifteen years. This latest and most colossal gift of all summarizes all the previous ones.

Hard though it be to determine which of all the existing industries most completely symbolizes the cannibalism of capitalism, safe it is to say that the steel industry is abreast of the worst, if not ahead of any. Upon the workers of this one industry more sympathetic poets have dropped their tears, more essayists and statisticians have exercised their trenchant pens, more artists, Stella at their head, have bestowed their genius than upon the workers in any other capitalist concern. Poets, essayists, statisticians and artists have combined to depict the wealth producers in the steel plants as beings whose very lives and every atom go into the output. A humanity of limbs distorted by excessive toil, health destroyed, life crushed out lies at the bottom of the billion profits yielded by the Steel Trust. The bulk of the yield falls to Carnegie.

Almost immediately after the organization of the Steel Trust there started a shower of Carnegie gifts—to churches for church organs, to libraries, to medals for "heroes," etc., etc. The gold and silver in every award to a hero recalled to the mind of those with memories to fall back upon that the "heroic" deed rewarded was generally impelled by some atrocious condition for which the Carnegie class was itself directly responsible; from between the leaves and lines of every library endowed by Carnegie, he with eyes to see can see crowded and peering the faces of male, female and child proletarians by the thousands excluded by unrequited toil from access to food for the mind; every tune that goes up from the pipes of church

organs bought with Carnegie gifts strikes upon the ears of those with ears to hear as the concentrated wail of a humanity whose aspirations, together with their bodies, are pulverized in the steel mills. Were these awards, donations to and for libraries, gifts for church organs, etc., etc.—were they meant as a vent to the sufferings that the awards, gifts and donations were squeezed from? Were they meant thereby to make public the atrocities that the walls and police of the Steel Trust conceal? Assuredly not. Light is too powerful a foe of Crime.

Each of these gifts, endowments, donations was a mortgage upon the mind and conscience of this, and that and the other locality. Each was a local mortgage, the interest on which was to be paid with express support of the mortgagee, and implied support of his class methods. Profitful though these local mortgages were, none nor all together covered more than a limited territory. The mortgagors were “national.” A mortgage was needed, it was felt to be urgently needed, in order to meet, at least to check if not to counteract, the unmortgageable Spirit of the Age. That fetch and stratagem demanded nothing short of a blanket mortgage—an international mortgage—a mortgage of scope and dollars-and-cents to match. That blanket mortgage was forthcoming.

The \$10,000,000 “Peace Foundation” is expected to inveigle from all lands support for the actual War conditions that make a Carnegie possible. It is an international mortgage intended to render all nations the mortgagors of the Gog-and-Magog mortgagee.

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