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EDITORIAL

## WILSON SELF-IMPALED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**OODROW WILSON makes the deliberate statement that “the working people of America are the backbone of the nation” and he proceeds to urge the propriety of laws that “protect them where they can not protect themselves.”

A social “backbone” that can not protect itself is a curious sociologic conception.

Either the “backbone” is a backbone, and then it has backbone enough to protect itself; or it needs to be protected, and then it is no backbone at all.

On one of the horns of this dilemma the talented Woodrow Wilson has impaled himself.

Under the system of capitalism, the working class is no “backbone”—any more than sheep are the backbone of the wool clipper; or cattle on the hoof are the backbone of the slaughterhouse operator; or feathers are the backbone of a millinery firm.

Under the capitalist system, the working class is what sheep, cattle and feathers are in the above instance—assets of the capitalist class. The more abundant the working people, all the larger the assets, all the more plentiful the profits, and all the more affluent the capitalist class. The recent atrocities in the Putumayo districts, committed by capitalists in order to focus the native Indians to the condition of “backbone,” are illustrations, hot from the oven of Capitalism, of just what the working class is expected to be, and of the lengths that Capitalism will go in order to furnish itself with certain assets without which Capitalist society is spavined.

Being no “backbone,” the working class needs to be protected. To be protected means, to a human stratum of society, to be pariah. Whatever the cloaks, phrases, and other legal fictions that the Working Class is wrapped in—pariah it is in all the spirit of the term.

One would expect from the good intentions of a Woodrow Wilson, and from his culture, that his culture and good intentions would jointly constitute a broom powerful enough to sweep aside his class-habits of thought, and enable him to penetrate the fact that social evolution is demanding one of two things, imperatively,—either the complete emancipation of the Working Class, or its complete re-subjugation with physical brass collars around its physical neck.

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