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EDITORIAL

## MILITIA GRAFT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE crusade started by the Pleasantville, N.Y., *Mount Pleasantville Compass* against the militia graft on the county, promises to be exhilarating in more ways than one.

It is exhilarating to contemplate the expenditure of \$13,652 to maintain a militia force of just 72 men. It is still more exhilarating to contemplate the details—an “armorers” at \$1,460; an engineer and assistant engineer at \$1,460 together with two laborers at \$1,095 each to run a heating plant that consists of one boiler about four feet wide and six feet high with a pressure of five pounds; the wages of the “engineer” and the “assistant engineer,” \$4 a day, paid for every day in the year, the summer months included; etc.; etc. All that is certainly exhilarating. But it is exhilarating not in and of itself only; it is exhilarating also in that which it leads to.

Large chunks of the Rockefeller estate are situate in Westchester county, the county in which the armory stands upon which the above expenditures are bestowed. The Westchester county Rockefeller estate “gives work” to a large force of men. These men are not always docile. Occasionally they break loose from the Sunday school teachings of their employer. In direct violation of the commandment, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbors,—in direct violation of this commandment, the employes of Sunday school teacher Brother John occasionally take it into their heads to covet their neighbor’s, aye, their Sunday school teaching employer’s cash through unreasonable demands for higher wages.

Nothing would be more un-Godly than to yield to such demands. To yield would be palpably to condone in violation of the commandment. Accordingly conflicts are ever imminent. What more natural, in such eventualities, than for the divine to ap-

peal to the secular arm? And what more proper than that the secular should be found ready? And what is readier than the militia? True enough seventy-two men do not constitute a redoubtable force, especially considering that, as the *Mount Pleasant Compass* has ascertained, the occupation of the soldiers at the armory to consist of “exciting games of pool,” while “waiting the call of duty,” and that “they appeared to be very well satisfied to wait, their appearance indicating that waiting was about the best thing they did.” Nevertheless, at a pinch, 72 men armed can instill, at least for a respite, the fear of the Lord into the hearts of those who mutiny against the enforcer of His Commandment.

The long and short of the story is that there is no end of exhilarating experiences in store for the *Mount Pleasant Compass*, together with those who will stand by and look on. Just wait till the Sunday school teacher discovers that the *Mount Pleasant Compass* is flying in the face of the Commandments.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)