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EDITORIAL

HARRY H. FLAGLER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

HENRY M. Flagler, the Standard Oil magnate recently deceased, is reported to have left behind him \$60,000,000; it is also reported that “there is much apprehension” concerning the management of the large interests involved in the large fortune by the only heir of the deceased, Harry Harkness Flagler, a gentleman said to be of artistic pursuits, and no inclination for business.

Those who entertain the apprehension are undoubtedly bourgeois; no wage-earner is breaking his head over the matter; and the headaches over the matter are an affliction that the afflicted would be free from if they understood their own social system better. As it is, they are the victims of their own superstitions.

In the superb condensation and generalization of Marx’s—“It is not because he is a leader of industry that a man is a capitalist; on the contrary, he is a leader of industry because he is a capitalist. The leadership of industry is an attribute of capital, just as in feudal times the functions of general and judge were attributes of landed property.”

The “original accumulation,” the accumulating of which by Henry M. is kept dark in the biographies of the late lamented, rendered Henry M. a capitalist, with the attribute of such, a leader industry in numerous branches of industry. From the days of Henry M. to those of Harry H., social development brought forth, in more complete development than was found by Henry M., the working class element which takes charge of production. To-day, from top to bottom the industries are run by wage-earners. Their battalions are organized; their grades are shaped. Harry H., the inheritor of the capital that Henry M. left to him, need not give up any of his “artistic pursuits” in order to “manage” the vast earldom, or principality, that comes to him from his father. The earldom, or principality, will manage itself—that is, the

wage-earners who now conduct it will continue to conduct it, with Harry H. as the beneficiary instead of Henry M.

There need be no apprehension—danger to the idle class of capitalist stockholders threatens from another quarter.

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