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EDITORIAL

DRINKING BLOOD!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE facts adduced in the case against the American Ice Company point to conclusions of a cruelty that transcends the darkest pages of even capitalist cruelty. It is cruelty to children, to children at their mothers' breasts!

The Trust first reduced the ice fields, available for the summer supply, to one-third of what they were last year. Thereupon the Trust proceeded to raise prices higher and still higher, three, four, five hundred per cent. On top of that the Trust watered its stock, not by drops, or cupfuls, or pailfuls, but by whole hogsheadfuls. The assets claimed by the Trust amount to \$46,325,488. Of this amount only \$12,964,882 was tangible. In other words, \$33,360,606 was water—or nearly three times as much water as wine! Nor was this all. The Trust declared a 9 per cent. dividend on its inflated or watered assets; the dividends actually raked in, considering the much smaller real assets, were nearer to 33 per cent., or \$4,169,293 of plunder—plunder? Nay blood.

In order that the Trust owners should enjoy the summer, and be ready for the rigors of the winter, the poor had to bleed. But not the poor adults merely, the poor babes especially. Addressing a “mothers’ meeting” a few weeks ago at an uptown public school, one of those well-fed female lecturers to workingmen’s wives upon their “derelictions” stated that 24,500 little ones had died in the city the previous year. How many of these were parched to death for the want of ice that has become a necessary of life!?!

It is no figure of speech. The capitalist class is a vampire class. Thirsting for the wealth that Labor produces, the capitalist class also thirsts for the blood of the

working class—and drains it. It is not sparkling wine, it is the blood of children that the Ice Trust magnates are quaffing.

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

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slpns@slp.org