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## {DIVIDENDS FIRST, WAGES LAST.}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE request of locomotive engineers of fifty roads in the eastern section of the country for an increase in wages was refused on the ground that, if granted, the increased pay roll would make all improvements on the lines impossible. Why? Are the earnings so slight that the increased pay roll would consume them all? No. Because the large dividends have first to be seen to, and seeing that these are the first things to be culled from the earnings, why, of course, there would be nothing left for improvements. Dividends first, wages and improvements last.

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