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EDITORIAL

THE PICKPOCKET TRICK.

By DANIEL DE LEON

CURIIOUS news that, from the University of Missouri! Not so many years ago a voice went up from the grave, and was echoed through the grave stones of the capitalist papers and magazines. It was the voice of dead and buried Malthusianism. Not the declining wage of our working class merchandise—declining in even step with the excess of its supply, thrown into the labor market by privately owned improved machinery,—not that was the “Yellow Danger” that was to Chineelize the land. The regalvanized corpse of Malthus was trotted out elaborately arguing Malthusianly that the tidal wave of over-population was gathering head in the Yangtse-Kiang Valley, and was to overwhelm us!

And now, what’s that that falls upon the startled ear not from far away Peking or Foochow, but from nearby Missouri, from the University of Missouri? ’Tis this: The despatches announce that the goody-goody students have goody-goodily petitioned the faculty to cut down their meals from three to two a day! Remembering that but recently Yale students, glorying in the badge of “scab,” jumped in to take the places of striking drivers and thus make certain a cutting down of meals-earning wages; remembering that from Columbia University recently went out a call to millionaires, quite pointedly explaining why they should make generous donations to an institution that teaches the dogma of cooliedom for the toiling masses and mandarindom for the idle capitalist—remembering these and many other instances of the same nature, the news that comes from the University of Missouri is rather more than a straw that discloses the direction of the stream.

The pickpocket, when he has designs upon the wayfarer’s RIGHT hand pocket, bumps him on the LEFT. Our capitalist rulers, through their press, colleges and pulpits,—the drums capitalistic—have in this matter been emulating the

pickpocket. Meaning at home to breed the “Yellow Danger,” they have, with their Malthusian clap-trap about China but sought to draw attention from their own fingers!

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