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EDITORIAL

“PROSPERITY” A PATENT MEDICINE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

PROSPERITY is here upon us. No doubt of it.

From Chicago the news is sent to New York that a monument maker there declared the “increased sale of monuments and tombstones in an indication of prosperity.”

From London the cable bears the statement that last week’s collapse in prices on the New York Stock Exchange is considered “as simply due to recognition that even greatly improved prosperity had been heavily over-discounted.”

From Paris we are told that “the hoped-for industrial revival” has created a condition of “money, money everywhere, and nothing in which to speculate with it.”

From Wichita, Kans., New York is favored with the information that “the farmers are using automobiles to a great extent. In one little town of 800, there were said to be forty automobiles.”

So one might keep on definitely, as fast as he could turn the pages of the capitalist press. But there is one strange feature about these prosperity reports. Who, here in New York, has seen any from New York?

Similarly, travelling in turn to Chicago, London, Paris, Wichita, one would find in each of those places a woeful dearth of prosperity items about itself, while the papers there would be simply flooded with tales of the prosperity to be had somewhere else.

Everyone is familiar with the Hoax Dandruff Cure, the Hoodwink’s Sarsaparilla, the Runaway’s Ready Relief ads. which are a feature of present-day commercialized Civic-Art. In New York they show glowing testimonials from Chicago, San Francisco and Terre Haute. In Chicago the testimonials, no less glowing, which are displayed, purport to come from San Francisco, Terre Haute and New York. Similarly with the other two places. In each case, the one spot

conspicuously absent from the roster of testimonializing communities is the place where the ad. is displayed.

Why?

Because, the patent medicine being a fraud, there are no testimonials, and to give a home address would render investigation and detection too easy.

'Tis the same with prosperity. So long as capitalism endures, "prosperity" will be but a patent medicine to dope and string the workers with.

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Uploaded by Donna Bills, October 2010

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