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EDITORIAL

ANOTHER INSULT FROM ALBANY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A BILL is pending in the Senate at Albany to limit to fifty-four hours the time in any one week that women and minors may be employed in factories. The bill passed the Assembly amid thunderous applause, its supporters throwing out their chests as they declaimed their determination to preserve and protect “the future of the mothers of this State.”

Fifty-four hours, that is, nine hours a day, the work days being six,—nine hours work a day for women and children, when that many hours is inhuman even for adult males—nine hours a day for women and children, when improved machinery and methods of work have rendered an average of four hours a day an ample expenditure of effort to produce and secure an abundance—nine hours a day and starvation wages for women and children, when neither should be at “work,” the former engaged in the lighter tasks that befit their sex, the latter allowed to profit by the joys of childhood—in other words, an official sentence of the women and children of the proletariat to the galley-slave benches of the capitalist ship—that official sentence, passed upon children and women, is trumpeted by our State legislators as an act of chivalry towards the women, the mothers!

About a month ago, on the occasion of the amendment to the State constitution proposed by these same legislators to double and more than double their own salaries, the *Daily People* called attention to the insult offered by these idlers to the underpaid workers, whom these mischievous idlers expected to see trooping to the ballot-box in support of the impudent amendment. That insult was offered to the male proletariat. The present insult is offered to the whole proletariat over the backs of women and children by our chivalrous Albany legislators.

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