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EDITORIAL

THE RANK OF AMERICAN LABOR.

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“**A**S the static thinks it links” is the proverb grown out of the experience of the jugglery with figures, known as “statistical computations.” But there is so much truth at the basis of statistics, that juggle as the capitalist statics may in their mutual conflicts damaging facts ever are revealed. William J. Clark’s performances are the latest illustration in point. And the free trade capitalist papers who have acted as his resounding board have added volume to the illustration.

William J. Clark is the manager of the foreign trade of the General Electric Company; he furnished an article in the *Engineering Magazine* entitled “A Comparison of American and European Commercial Trade.” The purpose of the article is to show that America itself is by far the best market of the world for manufactured products. In other words, the static Mr. Clark being a free trader, he clinks anti-protection statistics. But in so clinking he kicks to pieces the platform on which both his free traders and the protectionists stand—he kicks to pieces their joint capitalist pretences regarding the superior welfare of the working class of America, and he does so obedient to the law that says: Successful lying on a large scale transcends human power. Here are free trade static Clark’s own figures.

Mr. Clark places the average annual compensation of the wage earner in European factories at \$170, and in the United States at \$340, accordingly, he tries to make out that the latter earn twice as much as the former. But forgetting all about that, he proceeds to give the figures for the value of products per wage earner in various countries, and then the per capita of consumption by countries—and what a picture do these figures present!

The value of the product per wage earner in the United States is given at \$2,450, and seeing that the wage earners’ wages are given at \$340, it follows that

the American workingman receives 13.87 per cent of his product. Now taking Germany as the leading continental country of Europe we find Mr. Clark's figures to be \$460 as the value of the product per wage earner; and seeing that \$170 is the figure he gives for wages, it follows that the German workingman receives 36.95 per cent of his product, or MORE THAN 23 PER CENT above his fellow American wage slave!

But this is not all. Mr. Clark's figures on the per capita of consumption per nation show that the total consumption in America amounts to \$12,885,609,303 (a huge figure! is it not?) and that the per capita is \$169, while in Germany the total consumption is only \$4,152,450,000 (much less! is it not?), and the per capita is \$74. But, again, what do these figures conceal to the casual eye, yet reveal to the inquirer? They reveal that the per centage of per capita consumption in America is only .000.000.131 while in Germany it is .000.000.178! In other words, with a much larger amount of total consumption, the per centage of American consumption is .000.000.048 per cent less than in Germany!

In other words, free trade may be more profitable to capitalists, or protection may be more advantageous to capitalists, but in either and in both cases the American workingman is plundered to an infinitely greater extent than his German brother. And Mr. Clark's figure for the other nations show that the American workingman ranks at the top of the list of the plundered proletariat of the world.

Let the Clarks and the Anti-Clarks, the free trade and the protectionist capitalists juggle with their figures as they like and scratch each others faces, the workingman has his own row to hoe, and that is to mop the earth with both.

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

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