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EDITORIAL

## THE EVAPORATION OF PLUNDER

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**A**CCORDING to the statement issued by the Pullman Car Company for the year ending July 31, the “gross earnings” were \$32,000,000; “charges” \$20,000,000; “net earnings” (wages and surplus values) \$12,000,000; “surplus” (profits) only a paltry \$6,500,000. This is a neat way of evaporating plunder.

Taking the Company’s “gross earnings,” as stated, they amount to \$32,000,000. Every penny’s worth of this total is the product of Labor. Labor, and Labor only, produced those values. On the principle that the laborer is worthy of his hire, every penny of that \$32,000,000 belongs to Labor, and should go to Labor. Does it? It does not.

The first thing the statement does is to deduct \$20,000,000 under the pretext of “charges.” What are these “charges”—they are “rent,” “interest,” “raw material,” and “wear and tear.” The “rent” the Company pays to itself; the “interest” the Company pays to itself; the “raw material” the Company pays for with payments, not to itself, but to some other member of the identical Capitalist Class, which the Company is a member of. That payment remains “in the family.” Finally, the “wear and tear” partakes of the nature of the “raw material”—it also is paid for to some other member of the Capitalist Class family. It is quite possible, in fact, it is quite certain that under the head of “charges” other payments than “rent,” “interest,” “raw material,” and “wear and tear” are included, without being made to appear. Recent investigations of Insurance, Banking and Traction Companies have made revelations on such entries as “operating expenses,” the same being bribes to legislators, Judges, etc.—all of them menials of the Capitalist Class household, consequently, practically members of the Capitalist Class family. This analysis reveals the fact that, out of the \$32,000,000 produced collectively by the Working

Class of the land in the Pullman Car industry, the Working Class received back only \$5,500,000, while the Capitalist Class confiscated the robust amount of \$22,500,000.

The mathematical sleight-of-hand method by which the Capitalist Class conceals the hugeness of its plunder is very simple, perhaps even ingenious. It is as if a man were to account for \$100 stolen by him through some highway robbery, by pulling out of his right hand lower vest-pocket three \$5-bills and one \$1-bill, and putting a poor mouth upon the bills, say: "You see, this is all I have, just \$16! Can you call me a highway robber for that?" "But where are, or what has become of the remaining \$84?" "Become of them? Why, I haven't got 'em!—My right hand hip-pocket has \$20; my left hand hip-pocket has \$18.50; my right hand inside coat-pocket has \$19.32; my left hand inside coat-pocket has \$11.15; my right hand upper vest-pocket has \$4.41; my left hand upper vest-pocket has \$6.03; and my left hand lower vest-pocket has \$3.59; don't you see?"

The several individuals of the Capitalist Class are so many pockets on the body of that Class. Whenever any one of those individuals comes forward to "explain" what has become of the plunder levied by his Class upon the Working Class, all the other pockets act as so many evaporators of the total plunder, leaving the explaining pocket to look more like a sneak thief than like the highway robber that its Class is in reality.

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