

EDITORIAL

## FREE TO REPRESENTATIVE SULZER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**O**N a previous occasion we commented upon the bill of the New York Representative William Sulzer providing for a Department of Labor, the duty of which shall be to advance the wage earners' opportunities for profitable employment.

Besides being a back-number idea—the Times demand the emancipation of the workers, hence, the now inhuman and no longer justifiable social system that holds men and women and children down to the slave or merchandise status of “wage” earners—the bill is economically, hence, structurally defective.

The existence of the wage earner implies the existence of capitalism.

The existence of capitalism implies the merchandise status of Labor.

The merchandise status of Labor implies the rule of the market—prices being controlled by supply and demand—enforced upon Labor.

The enforcement of the rule of the market upon Labor implies the steady decline of the purchasing power of wages—the price of Labor-power—because concentration of plants and improved machinery (otherwise most desirable consummations under a rational, social system) steadily cause the supply to rise above the demand for Labor-power in the Labor-Market.

The steady rise of the supply of Labor-power in the Labor-Market means reduced “opportunities” for employment.

Reduced “opportunities” for employment implies less profitable employment.

The purpose of Representative Sulzer's bill is false to its premises. From “wage earner” premises, the conclusion of more “profitable” employment is as false as would {be} the conclusion of “better health” from the premises “pestiferous air.”

This short lesson on economics is respectfully tendered to William Sulzer, Representative from the Xth New York Congress District, free, gratis and for nothing.

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