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EDITORIAL

YES, VANDERBILLIONS!

By DANIEL DE LEON

SAYS the Vanderbillions' Interest in one of its circulars:

“In 1831, when the first train was run on the N.Y. Central Lines, the total debt of the nation was \$40,000,000.

“To-day the N.Y. Central Lines pay out that sum in wages every five months.

“In 1831 the total income of the U.S. Government was \$75,000,000.

“To-day a single industry—the N.Y. Central Lines—pays that sum for one year's supplies.

“In 1831 the total population of the United States was 12,866,420.

“To-day the N.Y. Central Lines carry that number every sixty days.

“The activities of the N.Y. Central Lines reflect the progress and prosperity of the Nation.”

When one gets so far in the circular he wonders what is going to be the conclusion drawn by this Vanderbillion-Depew leaflet. The conclusion is surprisingly sound, inspiring, constructively so, in short, utterly un-Vanderbillion-Depewish. The circular closes with this suggestive question:

“Is it not to your interest that such a vast industry be safeguarded by laws which promote and foster both the interests of the railroad and the public?”

Yes, indeed, Vanderbillions! It is to our interest that such a vast industry, builded, moreover, by the unpaid labor of the working class, be safeguarded so that it may promote the interests of the public, and in order to promote the interests of the public, be rescued from the clutches of the dividends-extorting Vanderbillions who have so long hampered its efficiency, and often rendered it a menace to the travelers' safety.

Yes, Vanderbillions, your Lines will be safeguarded. They will be taken over by

the organized labor of the land, as these colonies were taken over by the Revolutionists:—and you will be shipped off unless you go to work.

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