

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 77.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE CHANCES OF 60-YEAR-OLD WORKERS.

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ABOUT ten years ago the British Consul, located at Chicago, rendered to his Government a report on the labor conditions in the United States, with the machinists' trade as an illustration. The report was to the effect that, in America, if a machinist has reached his forty-second year and is out of work it will go hard for him to get a job—because, if he worked as hard as he is expected to work, then he is worn out, and no employer has any use for him; and if he is not worn out, then it is a sign that he did not work as hard as he is expected to, and no employer has any use for him, anyhow.

Now, eleven years later, another British Consul, Barnett by name, reporting to his home Government upon labor conditions in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut last year says:

“Every worker in America puts more energy into his work than does the European in his own country. Speeding is partly responsible for this, but the reserve of energy is no greater in America than in European stock. American energy is consequently exhausted more rapidly. At between the ages of 40 and 50, when the European workman is at his best, the American frequently breaks down. Physical exhaustion, dyspepsia, or nervous prostration follow, and the man's life as a worker is done. His place is taken by a younger man.”

It does not need British Consuls to tell us this. America being the most capitalistically developed country on earth, this country exhibits capitalistic features in boldest relief. One of these features is cannibalism—veiled or refined cannibalism. Not the frank cannibalism of the savage who dances a jig around the pot in which his quartered victim is stewing, but the covert cannibalism that chants the hymns of brotherly love, and coins the flesh, bones and marrow of the working class into heaps of profits under the benediction of the pulpit. No, it does not need British

Consuls to furnish our people, least of all the Socialists of America, with information that at once damns capitalism, and also Bergerism, with its pension schemes for workingmen of sixty years and over.

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Uploaded July 2012

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