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EDITORIAL

## THE PHELPS DODGE.

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**M**R. J.G. Phelps Stokes, the son of a multimillionaire, and connected with the Dodge millionaires, has packed his trunk, left his luxurious home on Madison Avenue, and taken his abode at the “University Settlement”, 184 Eldridge St. What Mr. Stokes’ purpose is may be gathered from his own words. “I am opposed,” says he, “to social distinctions which separate the classes.” In other words, Mr. Stokes’ purpose is, not to remove class distinctions, not to do away with the existence of an idle sponging class and a toiling sponged class, not that; his purpose is to blur away all he can the external or social distinction manifestations of the ulcer. These are circumstances that justify the putting of the case in even stronger terms.

According to the authorities for 1891, Mr. Stokes was in that year a Director in five corporations; of these he was President of four and Vice-President in the fifth. They are: the Austin Mining Co., the Dudley Co., the Nevada Central R.R. Co., the Nevada Co., and the Woodbridge Co. As far as our information reaches, this is substantially the state of things now. Such a state of things discloses the ownership of a large, if not a controlling, number of shares in capitalist concerns. This fact, in turn, points to large revenues, in other words, a large amount of wealth produced by the class that toils, and absorbed by the non-toiling Mr. Phelps. Accordingly, Mr. Phelps is a beneficiary in no small degree of the social system that is grounded on the capitalist inhumanity of class conditions. In and of itself, the fact is not enough to convict the “beneficiary” of complicity in the system of legalized plunder called capitalism. One may happen to be born into such conditions; he may even have worked himself into them; and yet he may be one of Nature’s Noblemen. His patent of nobility would be the use he makes of the plunder thus placed into his hands. If he uses the plunder for the purpose of uprooting the system of refined cannibalism that he lives under, if he uses it for the purpose of rearing

for the race a nobler social structure, in that case his title to his patent would be clear. Does Mr. Phelps put his legalized plunder to such worthy purpose? No. He uses it, as he says himself, to the end of blurring the social distinctions which separate what he admits to exist—the classes; in other words, he uses it to perpetuate the system. Mr. J.G. Phelps Stokes' conduct justifies the calling a spade a spade. He is trying the vampire act of fanning the wound it inflicts in sucking its victim's blood.

The vampire's trick is clever; nevertheless the vampire's realm shrinks. As man's inroads into the wilderness drives the vampire back, so the humane tactics of Socialism—drawn along the lines of the precept that it is criminal to cry "Peace! peace! where there is no peace"—will, so far from seeking to blur, draw sharp the social and all other evidences of the existence of classes; emphasize what that means; and thus put an end to capitalist or vampire rule.

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