

EDITORIAL

## REWARDS FOR MATERNITY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Parents Home League of America is an organization started in Fort Valley, Ga., for the purpose of promoting maternity. The League provides a system of rewards and pensions for married people, from the moment they have one living child born; the more children the more rewards. The League is said to have 500 lodges in Georgia, and is rapidly extending to other States.

What a commentary upon the trend of things in America.

That France, a densely populated country, should resort to “maternity” methods—that can be explained; that, however, a country so sparsely populated as the United States, with room enough for many fold her people, and with latent wealth unbounded enough to furnish the whole world, that in such a country the “maternity” promotion-schemes should raise their heads tells a huge tale.

Capitalism produces vastly more wealth than any previous social system. Capitalism also points the way for a production that turns the tables on Malthus and increases wealth vastly beyond the increase of population. This notwithstanding, in such a country as this—matchless in point of latent wealth, ahead of all others in point of capitalist development—in such a country as this we find the precariousness of life to be so much on the increase that maternity is avoided, and needs artificial stimulants.

Fact is the sole virtue of Capitalism is to *unveil* the secret of plentiful production. So soon is the unveiling is done Capitalism has accomplished its purpose. Every day, beyond that one, that Capitalism survives, it merely annuls its own work. It even makes things worse than they were. It introduces a species of poverty not known before; it introduces a species of uncertainty of living never before known; it introduces {a} species of immorality ununderstood heretofore. Allowed to survive its mission, Capitalism warps, gnarls, stunts and cripples Man

and human Sentiment. “Maternity” Leagues are symptoms of the disease of Capitalism.

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