

EDITORIAL

## AN "ASIATIC" NATION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE New York *Sun* is now publishing the following item "from the official estimate of the income tax of 1913":

"Four thousand dollars to \$5,000, 126,000 persons; \$5,000 to \$10,000, 178,000; \$10,000 to \$15,000, 53,000; \$15,000 to \$20,000; 24,500; \$20,000 to \$25,000, 10,500; \$25,000 to \$50,000, 21,000; \$50,000 to \$100,000, 8,500; \$100,000 to \$250,000, 2,500; \$250,000 to \$500,000, 550; \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, 250; over \$1,000,000, 100."

It follows from these figures:

1. That the number of people, out of our 95,000,000 population and over 15,000,000 voters, with an income over \$4,000 is below 500,000—to be accurate is 424,900
2. That the total income of this absolutely and relatively insignificant percentage is not less than \$4,376,254,000.
3. That the minimum average income of the 424,900 is \$10,299.
4. That, deducting from the 424,900 the number—304,000—of those whose actual income is \$10,000 or less, there are left only 120,900 with a total income of not less than \$3,040,740,000, or an average income not less than \$25,000.
5. That if the number—392,000—of those whose actual income does not exceed \$25,000 is deducted from the 424,900, there are left just 32,900 folks, and these draw an average income of over \$70,463, with 100 of them rioting in incomes of \$1,000,000 and over.

In a previous article, also taken from reliable figures on the income tax given by the same paper, the argument was made that, considering the low average wages of the working class, and giving due weight to the innumerable evidences of extreme destitution in the land, ours was "A Paupers' Nation." The more detailed figures,

now furnished by the official estimate of the income tax, justify the calling of the United States an "Asiatic Nation."

The new designation indicates no difference as to facts, only their being viewed from a different angle. Where only 424,900 people out of a population of 95,000,000 enjoy incomes in excess of \$4,000, and only 32,900 of the privileged few receive an average income of \$70,463, with one hundred of the latter rioting in incomes of \$1,000,000 and over, there is Asiatic luxury somewhere. Asiatic luxury and pauperism are obverse and reverse of the same medal.

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