

EDITORIAL

## ACCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**ITH flaming headlines the railroad accident that killed 25 passengers and injured 40 on the White Mountain Express is being reported, and luridly do the reports enumerate the fourteen wrecks that have occurred on the same road in twenty-seven months, causing the death of 74 passengers and injuring 400.

By actual count, the number of deaths that have been caused during the same period by the cavings in of mines in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Indiana, by the burning down of factories in New York, Binghamton and Philadelphia, and by promiscuous slipping of cogs in machinery, etc., etc., amounts to ten times 74, and the number of injured to more than three times 400 workingmen, women and children.

Each wreck on the road acts upon the Republican, Democratic and Progressive press as a refresher of their memories concerning previous wrecks; and is the occasion for extensive editorial whinings.

Otherwise in the instances where proletarians at work are the sufferers. No homicidal explosion at the Du Pont powder mills revives recollections of the previous and numerous homicidal explosions at the same plants; no homicidal and limb-mutilating mine or factory disasters are extensively commented on retrospectively. They are taken notice of true enough. Disasters are circulation promoters. But then it ends. Each disaster that affects the proletariat is taken separately. Occasionally a reporter, a young and aspiring journalist takes up such matters more feelingly. He is quickly silenced, and some other "great piece of news" shoves the disaster off the paper's columns.

There are "Accidents" and "Accidents."

One set stimulates circulation without injuring stockholders;—such Accidents

hold the center of the bourgeois press's stage, and each new Accident acts as a stage whistle summoning the previous ones on deck to officiate as chorus.

The other set of Accidents, though they also stimulate circulation, are injurious to stockholders;—such accidents hold a corner of the bourgeois press's stage for a day, and then are whistled off with the hope that they may be speedily forgotten.

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