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EDITORIAL

## **JOBS! JOBS!! JOBS!!!**

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**WO transactions in Congress form an apt commentary to the claim of increasing and spreading prosperity among the whole people of the country. One of these transactions is still in the course of formation; the other has matured far enough to pass both Houses, and reach the President.

The first is the bill (H.R. 5833) to provide a revenue for the Philippine Islands. Already 1,821 Americans—all, of course, highly prosperous before they went out—are being nursed at the public crib in the Philippines. But more are pressing to immolate themselves upon the altars of the Nation. They are prosperous here at home. Who is not? Were they otherwise, then there would be no sacrifice in the matter. But as they are running over with self-sacrifice, they are willing to abandon their home prosperity, and go to the distant Philippines to become petty placemen there. In view of this, Congress can hardly do less than do the handsome thing. And surely it is not doing too much to provide jobs (read salaries) for the swarm of self-sacrificers that are pressing upon it. It is in view thereof that the Philippine revenues are to be raised. Already \$2,000,000 is insufficient. The amount must be increased. Hence H.R. 5,833.

The second is a bill (H.R. 10,308) which has passed both Houses, and is ostensibly to provide for a permanent census, in point of fact to provide for the continuance of the jobs on the Census Office. No less than 1,000—some claim nearly 2,000—clerks are to be affected thereby. The salaries that these employees now get are small. Seeing prosperity rages all around, one would think nothing short of a 40-horse power could keep this horde of clerks from pulling away from the Census Office, and plunge for their share of prosperity. Yet not so. Such again is the prevailing spirit of self-sacrifice, that these clerks prefer to starve in their country's service rather than riot in wealth, in the pursuit of selfish ends. And thus it comes

to pass that these clerks have crowded their respective Representatives and Senators in Congress, and these, yielding to the altruistic wave, have passed the bill in question.

As the degree of abnegation, on the part of the monks who locked themselves up in forbidding monasteries, was gauged by the delights of the world that they turned their backs upon, so the width and depth of the country's prosperity may now be gauged by the towering display of self-sacrifice on the part of the towering number of self-sacrificers whom Congress feels constrained to furnish jobs to.

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