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SECOND EDITORIAL

Away With Them

By DANIEL DE LEON

The social pirates of our country are in desperate plight. Under their imbecile and felon leadership the nation is at the verge of a social cataclysm. Wealth, produced by the working class but stolen from them, lies piled mountain high in the hands of the loafing capitalist class, while, for the toilers, monumental privation is the portion. This shocking contrast, growing more shocking by the year during the last generation, has been dragging its long train of cumulating ills. During all this interval, the mouth-pieces of the capitalist class—the Democratic and the Republican parties—have filled to perfection their mission of performing the vampire act, especially at those periodically critical periods for capitalism—campaign time. Vampire-like the parties of the capitalist class fanned the worker cool while sticking their leech-snouts in his vitals and sucking his life blood. It was a work of art and skill to do this fanning act: to cause the victim to feel happy while being bled to death. Yet it was done. One breeze after another—the Free Trade, the Protection, the Reform—was resorted to successfully. But the victim has grown restless and the vampire is at his wits' end.

A new set of issues, brand-new breezes, are now raised in all hurry to lull the giant working class into a stupor—the money issues. The gold standard, under which we have reached our present state of national misery, is blown by the one, while the other vampire blows the double standard, or silver or more money breeze as though more money in existence would bring more of it into the pockets of the workers.

The Socialist Labor party looks down upon these vampires with contempt and indignation—contempt for their ignorance, indignation at their rascality, and it shakes up the stupefied body of the proletariat, calling upon it to risk in its might, smite its blood-suckers, and, rallying around its own banner, snow its foe under a veritable blizzard of Socialist votes.

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

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