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SECOND EDITORIAL

NEOLITHIC REASONING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Says the New York *Sun* at the close of an editorial praising the late Collis P. Huntington to the skies:

“It remains for each, by darting forward like a greyhound at the slightest glimpse of honorable opportunity, by redeeming time, defying temptation and scorning sensual pleasure to make himself honored and happy. Old-fashioned obvious, obtrusive moral advice, it may be said. There are thousands of Bryanites kicking their heels at station platforms or rural groceries or grogeries and expectorating discontent. There is no chance for a young man, they say. The Trusts and the corporations spoil all. The rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. If Huntington had had this spirit or want of spirit, he might have died on the town farm in his native village.”

Which is like saying:

“Polar bears and the furred elephant once roamed the fields now occupied by the State of New York. Why should they not now? Did anybody say those were the days of a glacial period, when ice rose up above the crests of the Mamaronek hills, and the top of Mount Washington just peeped out above a block of ice that extended from Canada to the Long Island Sound? Absurd! The chance to be the polar bear and the furred elephant then is open now. It remains for every animal, from purring puss to the growling mastiff, by darting forward like a greyhound at the slightest glimpse of opportunity, by redeeming time, defying temptation and scorning sensual pleasure, to make himself a huge polar bear or still huger mastodon.”

But this bit of nonsense is not, as it looks, directed toward the equally nonsensical Bryanite. It is not upon that crew that the *Sun* spends its efforts in squeezing such neolithic reasoning out of its frightened brain. The Bryanite calamity howler is himself stuck fast in the glacial blocks of the past. He knows no present, and the future is a closed book to him. The *Sun's* neolithicism is intended to befog the real foe—the Socialist.

Socialism has made the point clear that competition is possible, and chances are possible, only when the tool of production is so small that its acquisition is easy. Socialism has made the point clear that, when the tool of production has reached the Trust stage competition ends; the small man goes by the board; and, if he was unable to compete successfully, then the workingman, wholly deprived of all property, sinks to the level of a wage slave, skinned of the lion's share of his product, unable to raise himself except by dint of his ballot, through the conquest of the public powers. Socialism has made the point clear that these are not the days of old; and it has made that point so clear that it has so completely cornered the beneficiaries of the present system as to force them to expectorate neolithic chunks of "reasoning" as their only "argument."

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

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