

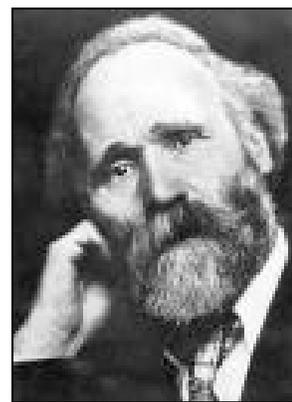
EDITORIAL

BIOGRAPHY AS AN EDUCATOR.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is to be hoped that the recent article of Mr. [Keir Hardie](#) in the *New York Journal*, and commented upon in these columns, will not have been lost upon those good but inexperienced people, who imagine that all criticism of persons must be omitted, and the Socialist should simply “teach Socialism.”

It is a notorious fact that the spread of Socialist thought, brought on by S.L.P. agitation, is such that the capitalist class has stopped turning its nose at Socialism, and that it has found it necessary to seek to ride the storm, it being impossible to beat the storm down. In pursuit of this artful policy the capitalist class is seeking to use Socialism against Socialism. That is to say, it seeks to clothe capitalist measures in the garb of Socialism, and thus secure Socialist support for the strangling of Socialism. One of the means to this end is the booming of municipalization schemes a la



JAMES KEIR HARDIE (1856-1915)

Glasgow. These schemes have been shown to have no more in common with Socialism, despite external appearance, than a coyote has in common with a horse, altho' both have four legs. It has furthermore been shown that all such Glasgow styles of municipalization leave the workingman much more helpless at the mercy of the employer: if the capitalist government runs an industry, then both the political and the economic power are concentrated in the capitalist's hands, and the subjugation of the worker is more swift and complete.

This being thus, Glasgow municipalization plans are favorite capitalist proposals. With the view to help inoculate the point in the mind of the American working class, the Coolie-Hearst Capitalist booms Keir Hardie as a Socialist, and gets him to write for his *Journal* an article that bristles with fallacies in favor of Glasgow municipalization, and bristles still more with false statements as to its “beneficent effect upon the working class.”

Every workingman can not have the necessary leisure to closely scrutinize a

proposition. Hurried as he is to and from work, he has no time for close reading. His mind is inclining to Socialist thought. Before he gets sufficiently posted to protect himself against the wiles of his exploiters, his exploiters seek to switch him away, and they try the game by baiting the hook with the word Socialism. The best of bait is a name. To boom an ignoramus and labor skate like Keir Hardie as a Socialist and have him advocate as Socialism a thorough-paced capitalist scheme like Glasgow municipalization, is the ideal capitalist baiting. Nothing can protect many a worker from being caught in such a case like the knowledge as to who the alleged Socialist is.

Biography is the handmaid of Socialist economics and sociology. A thorough knowledge of men is essential to help the masses pick their way through the clouds of dust that the capitalist class raises for the purpose of creating confusion in the ranks of the proletariat.

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