

EDITORIAL

A TYPE OF THE “SPOILIATION” HATER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FACING the notification committee of the Democratic party of the city of New York on the 7th instant, Mr. Edward M. Shepard made a speech accepting the nomination for Mayor, and, posing as a tribune of the people, said among other things:

“I hate spoliation to-day as much as I ever did.”

That much for words, now for deeds; that much for phrases, now for facts.

“Tribune of the people,” “Friend of the workingman,” “Anti-spoiliator” Edward M. Shepard is a President, Vice-president or Director in the following concerns:

Alvarez Land & Timber Co.,
Berkshire Apartment Association,
Colorado Midland Railway,
Compania Metalurgica Mexicana,
Mexican Mineral Railway Co.,
Mexican Northern Railway Co.,
Montezuma Lead Co.,
Patterson, Gottfried & Hunter (Limited),
Potosi & Rio Verde Railway,
Rio Grande, Sierra Madre & Pacific R.R.,
Sombrerete Mining Co.

In other words, Mr. Shepard holds such a controlling amount of stock in eleven Corporations and Trusts that he is a leading officer therein. This fact justifies the belief that he also is an extensive stockholder, like Seth Low, in a number of other concerns, in which, however, his holdings are not large enough to raise him to office.

Translated into plain everyday English, “stockholder” spells “spoliator of the worker.” The stockholder is the capitalist; he does no manner of work in the concerns in which he holds stock. The man who holds stock in and “directs” simultaneously an Alvarez Land & Timber Company and a Berkshire Apartment

Association, a Mexican Railway and a Patterson, Gottfried & Hunter concern, a Montezuma Lead Company and a Colorado Midland Railway, a Mexican Metallurgic affair and a Rio Grande, Sierra Madre & Pacific R.R., etc., etc., cannot do the work on all. Only one thing can such a man do on all, and that is to spoliator the workingmen. Indeed, from his vulture's aerie, up in the crags of the Adirondacks, Mr. Shepard swoops down periodically on his "dividends," a word that, in turn, put into plain, everyday English, means the blood, the marrow, the flesh of the workers. These, held under by the capitalist system, are compelled to yield their substance to the spoliator: they work, he idles; they toil, he enjoys.

Mr. Edward M. Shepard, the candidate of the Democratic party for Mayor of New York, spoke {the} truth: he hates spoliation to-day as much as he ever did, that is to say, he dotes on it now no less than ever. How much he dotes on it may be gathered from his readiness to extend his sphere of spoliation. Hitherto circumscribed to spoliating the workingman in his railway, land and timber, apartment, lead mines and such other concerns, he now proposes to extend his depredations to the political field and ride the workers there. Accustomed to plunder them of the bulk of the wealth that they produce, he now is sharpening his talons to plunder them of their vote too, and riding the crest of the wave of the workers' suffrage, sail into the commanding place of the Mayoralty, where he may dispose of the public powers, in addition to the economic powers that he already enjoys, to grind them down, and in more wholesale style practise his only trade,—SPOLIATION.

None but those who consider their mission in life is to serve for carrion to the capitalist spoliator, will cast their votes for Shepard or Low. All others will plump their votes for the Socialist Labor Party ticket from Benjamin F. Keinard at the top, down to the bottom.

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

Uploaded July 2006