

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 2, NO. 311.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1902.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

A.P.A.-ISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE decease of Archbishop Corrigan has produced his “career” in a number of papers. And there will be more. While the Archbishop is a thing of the past, his conduct in life is not, any more than that of any other man. It is even more alive than that of many others, in view of the station he filled. Turning, then, from that which is dead to that which lives on, the career of Archbishop Corrigan is good light to read the meaning of A.P.A.-ism by.

There is a popular delusion that A.P.A.-ism is a protest, nay, is to be a barrier, against Roman Catholicism, against the domination in America of the rule of the Vatican. No doubt many a member of the A.P.A. organizations believes so himself and lives up to the principle; but that would only go to show that the delusion extends into the organization itself. A.P.A.-ism is born, not of the purposes it sets forth, but of entirely different purposes. It is born of the purpose to cut deep chasms between the ranks of the working class so as to prevent their united and then irresistible force. Accordingly, so far from A.P.A.-ism being fomented by Americans against Rome, it is fomented by capitalists, whether Protestant or otherwise, against the working class. That this is so the career of Archbishop Corrigan demonstrates. Two episodes will suffice.

One was the McGlynn episode. Father McGlynn took the stump for the Single Tax. The capitalist class did not bother about the theory of the Single Tax. That did not alarm them. What alarmed them was the revolutionary pulse of the working class, which McGlynn awoke. McGlynn was promptly disciplined by the Archbishop, and the Pope added his ex-communication. Here was a case where, if A.P.A.-ism were what it pretends to be, it should have risen in indignation. America can manage her own affairs. If a wrongful Movement should start, America is amply able to handle it. Help from

Rome is not wanted. Moreover, the right of free speech was assailed. If ever the Vatican insulted Americanism it was when Archbishop Corrigan set himself up as a censor of free speech, and his creed-dogma as a gauge of economics and politics in the land. And what did the A.P.A.'s do? To a man, they and their press crawled in the dust before the "foreign potentate." And thus A.P.A.-ites and alleged anti-A.P.A.-ites went arrum in arrum.

The second episode was four years ago when the Archbishop celebrated the silver jubilee of his consecration as Bishop. Among the celebrants was no less an A.P.A.-ist than Elihu Root, the present Secretary of the Navy. And on that occasion, Mr. Root picked out as THE bright spot in the Archbishop that he "stood for the highest rights of personal liberty and for morality against the insidious misrepresentations of demagogues, Socialists and Anarchists." It adds no little point to the praise that it proceeded from a gentleman who, having in his possession full information on the atrocities committed by his subalterns in the Philippines, said "the war was conducted there upon principles that could not give offence to the most delicate sense of humanity."

The decease of Archbishop Corrigan recalled to memory these incidents in his career. None but the blind can fail to see that close bonds bind the A.P.A. and their supposed adversaries; none but the dullest can fail to perceive the nature of the "morality" that animates the said bond.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded September 2006