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ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

A PULITZER AS UMPIRE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**M**R. Roosevelt and Socialism” is an article to which the New York *World* of the 13th instant treats its patient readers, and in the course of which this passage occurs:

“It was not Preston, the Socialist inmate of a Nevada jail, but Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, who at Indianapolis and at Provincetown denounced the ‘predatory man of great wealth,’ the ‘predatory capitalists’ and the ‘malefactors of great wealth.’”

And so the article goes on and on denouncing “the virulence of speech and intemperance of epithet in the incitement of class against class.”

However interesting the fact, for the purpose of this comment it is of secondary consideration to see a journal that claims to be anti-criminal, rave against the denunciation of crime; or to watch the same journal, which claims to be a defender of “law and order,” drag into “the mire of Socialism” the chief magistrate of the country, and lump him with “frenzied Socialist agitators” in and out of jail. Interesting though these facts are, there is another fact that leaps out of *The World’s* article, and which is entitled to the right of way.

That fact is that, if the Socialists are, indeed, “virulent in speech and intemperate in epithet, then the Prophets and Jesus must, in *The World’s* opinion, have used downright billingsgate.

Denunciation of the rich who “grind the faces of the poor” is a favorite expression with Isaiah; execration of the ways of the rich, “a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw-teeth as knives, to devour the poor from the earth and the needy from among men,” is a constant theme in Proverbs; and as to Jesus—just listen:

“Woe unto you that are rich—

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses and for a pretence make long prayers: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, then for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for they make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.”

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