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EDITORIAL

CONTINUITY OF PROGRESS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is a test of the well balanced mind among militants in the Labor Movement whether the new social system which they conceive in their minds is of the nature of a volcanic projectile landing on soil of a wholly different geologic formation, or whether that social system is conceived as so intimately the issue of the existing one as to be attached to it with ligaments that establish the kinship of the two.

To the former, the unbalanced mind, history is of no importance; there is nothing to be fetched thence but bad habits of thought; to the latter, the well balanced mind, history is a priceless store-room from which to fetch inspiration and guidance. The former, the unbalanced mind, will, accordingly, be a man groping in the dark; the latter, the balanced mind, is one who knows with substantial accuracy whither he is marching because he knows whence he proceeds. The former, the unbalanced mind, feels driven to draw out of the navel of his own head the aids to reach his goal—an impossible feat for any individual; the latter comes equipped with all that is valuable, produced by previous generations, and his task will never exhaust his forces.

Contrary to the method of the unbalanced mind, who loves to sneer at the American Revolution, its Constitution and its Acts, *The People* has more than once called attention to the path-lighting fact of the Constitutional clause which “empowers Congress to regulate commerce.” It has been shown how that clause has imbedded in it all that Socialism aims at. The present debate in the Senate on the Tariff brings to light, however unintentionally, another fact of prime interest to the Socialist, in that it confirms his theory that Socialism is strictly evolutionary, and that an important link in the evolutionary process is likewise found in the principles enunciated during the days of the American Revolution.

The Crown is UNtaxable. Why? Because, as well put by Chief Justice Marshall, the leading expounder of the Constitution, “the power to tax is the power to destroy.” Monarchy, built as it is upon the fiction that the Monarch is a being by the grace of God, could not but be above taxation, because the fiction rendered him, theoretically, indestructible. The capitalist Monarch, however, the successor of his by divine grace predecessor, is expressly taxable by the Constitution. The supreme power according to the Constitution being Congress, and Congress being vested with the power to tax, Congress has the power to destroy the taxpayer, who is nobody else than the Capitalist Class, by taxing it out of its class existence.

The earliest practical glimmer of both the Socialist Republic and of the methods to reach it was caught by the revolutionary upheaval that the Constitution of the United States is the mile-stone of.

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