

EDITORIAL

FOR CARDINAL FARLEY'S COLLEGE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A SUGGESTION to Cardinal Farley who “has in mind a college of labor for education in questions relating to capital and labor”:

Socialist Science teaches that all wealth is produced by Labor, and that all surplus wealth (the wealth kept and found in the pockets of the holders of whatever is needed for production) is wealth sponged from Labor.

Gibbon in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* states, and substantiates his statements with the authority of ecclesiastic authorities, that “an authentic but imperfect rent-roll [at about the time of Constantine] specifies some houses, shops, gardens and farms, which belonged to the three Basilicae of Rome, St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. John Lateran, in the provinces of Italy, Africa and the East. They produce, besides a reserved rent of oil, linen, paper, aromatics, etc., a clear annual revenue of twenty-two thousand pieces of gold, or 12,000 pounds sterling.” And the footnote referred to in the passage reads: “See Baronius (Annal. Eccles. A.D. 324, No. 5S, 65, 70, 71.) Every record which comes from the Vatican is justly suspected; yet these rent-rolls have an ancient and authentic color; and it is at least evident, that if forged, they were forged in a period when farms, not kingdoms, were the objects of papal avarice.”

Now then, Cardinal Farley's professors at his projected college should—seeing that the Roman Catholic political hierarchy rejects the teachings of Socialist Science as “false,” and “ridiculous,” and the “spewings of hissing snakes”—make it their business to explain to their pupils what the source was of that “clear revenue” of 12,000 pounds sterling, besides the “reserved rent” yielded by the “houses, shops, gardens and farms” which the said churches owned and operated.

The subject is growing in interest, and the answer is impertinently demanded with a force not to be resisted. How irresistibly, Cardinal Farley surely is aware of.

Socialism answered the question with the firmness that Copernicus and Galileo maintained their now triumphant scientific principles. With the same firmness, born of unshakable deduction from positive facts, Socialism in this generation answers the question with: “That ‘clear revenue’ and ‘reserved rent’ came from the blood and muscles, and was fructified with the sweat of the brow of the Christian proletariat whom their prelatical masters exploited.

What answer will Cardinal Farley’s professors make that has not been long exploded—as the necessity for the Cardinal’s projected college to “fight Socialism” attests that all capitalist answers have been thoroughly exploded.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org