

# The



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FIRST EDITORIAL

## TAKE THE HINT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**he *Illinois Staats-Zeitung*, a leading Chicago capitalist paper, recently made a statement that all those should take to heart who realize the importance of correct tactics to reach a desired goal. It said:

“We have always been of the opinion that it takes the devil to drive out Beelzebub with, that Socialism must be fought with Anarchy. The same as the corn louse and similar insects are driven out by setting against them certain other insects that devour them and their eggs, so should the State CULTIVATE AND REAR ANARCHISTS in the principal nests of Socialism, and leave to the Anarchists the work of destroying Socialists. The Anarchists will do the work much more effectively and thoroughly than either police or District Attorneys.”

The value of this statement does not lie in the affinity therein betrayed between Capitalism and Anarchy: that fact is sufficiently well established. Nor does its value lie in the still more important evidence it furnishes of the direct complicity there exists between the capitalists and the homicidal Anarchists. Readers of THE PEOPLE will remember the disclosures made upon this head by Comrade Jaures in the French Chamber of Deputies, when he read letters and other documents that established a direct connection between certain leading French capitalists and the Paris bomb-throwers. The real value of the statement made by the Chicago paper lies in its furnishing proof to confirm the tactics adopted by the Socialist Labor Party wherever it has seriously entered the field.

Under the slogan “free speech” and similar false pretences, a rabble rout has often sought to disturb Socialist meetings, create riot, thereby throwing disrepute upon Socialist meetings, and destroy Socialist propaganda. These “free speakers” have sailed under all colors. Essentially they are identical. Their purpose was, is

and ever will be to balk the progress of Socialism, and thus lengthen the life of Rapine, i.e., Capitalism. Here in New York, where experience is vastest, the party has long ago seen through the false pretences of these “free speakers,” it has refused them its platforms, and it has squelched their attempts to rant from the floor. Many unsophisticated comrades, anxious to win converts, often were trepanned by this Anarchist brood of all degrees, and yielded to their importunities only to find out later that they had been imposed upon. In New York the danger of the Anarchist and kindred outposts of capitalism may be considered as past. But we warn the comrades elsewhere against these insects, we counsel them to learn from the experience we have made, and to save themselves the trying trouble that is attendant upon wrestling with such vermin.

Socialism has nothing to fear from its open enemies. Its scientific, and therefore intolerant and “narrow,” tenets keep out all bacilli. The danger that lies in its way comes only from those disguised foes whom capitalism “cultivates and rears,” as the Chicago paper puts it, to throw confusion into its ranks.

Socialists should hold an attitude of uncompromising warfare against all the hindrances in their way. They should never forget that the lives of men, women and children—of the working class—are at stake. And in the pursuit of their unterrified career they can strengthen their own arms in no way better than by enforcing strict order, and ruthlessly crushing all Anarchistic “free speech” at the meetings in which they deliver public addresses intended to educate their fellow wage slaves, and train them for the struggle that is imminent.

The hint, unintentionally dropped by the *Illinois Staats-Zeitung*, should not be lost upon us.

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

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