

EDITORIAL

## CHICOPEE AND HOLYOKE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**J** OHN J. KELLY,” says the Springfield, Mass., *Union* of last week, “the Socialist candidate was simply slaughtered, his vote being but 448 as compared with a complimentary {?} vote of 1040 he received last year. Mr. Kelly’s defeat, coupled with the defeat of the two Socialist candidates for alderman, removes the Socialist party entirely as a factor in the city.” In explanation to *The People* readers it should be stated that the article above quoted refers to the recent municipal election in Chicopee.

A Holyoke, Mass., correspondent, commenting upon the Chicopee election, says:

“These Chicopee Socialists have strained with might and main to get some of their members elected, and after talking themselves hoarse about ‘Good Government,’ are thrown down by the very people who helped to elect them. In Holyoke they allowed themselves to be made a political ash-barrel for sore-head Democrats, who had no candidate of their own, the Socialist party candidates made ineffectually a hysterical reform campaign as a bid for a big vote—which failed to materialize, after all.”

In order to judge a principle of action, it is necessary to shut the eye to the corrupt barnacles that fasten upon it. Leaving aside the corruptionists who foregather in the Socialist party as mere incidents, it must be admitted that honestly-intentioned people give the party its standing. What are the principles of these? Their principles are:

1. “Get there—the political government.”

Next, in order to get there—

2. “Become fly-paper.”

That these principles proceed from warm hearts is unquestionable; that they proceed from unequipped minds is equally certain.

The aim of Socialism is the overthrow of the rule of the Capitalist Class. With such an aim before it, it is the merest folly to believe the class that is to be overthrown can be circumvented. The Capitalist Class know exactly that Socialism means their dethronement. Accordingly, any method or policy looking to seeming innocent misses its point.

On the other hand, the aim of Socialism being the overthrow of the reign of Capitalism, Socialism means the Glad Tidings to the Working Class. With such a mission, it is the worst policy possible for the Socialist to try and look innocent. In the measure that he does so, he alienates the very element upon which the triumph of Socialism depends.

Accordingly, a policy of dropping the sound revolutionary propaganda of Socialism is a double edged sword, both edges of which wound and thereby defeat Socialism. It does not throw the Capitalist Class off their guard, while it throws sand into the eyes of the proletariat, deadens their revolutionary instinct, and keeps them from rallying around the banner of Socialism.

The Chicopee and Holyoke experiences should be classic illustrations.

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Uploaded November 2009

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