

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 57.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE “POLITICIAN” AND THE “ROUGHNECK.”

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AT the recent conference of Socialist party men in office, held in Milwaukee to exchange views, the S.P. Mayor of Granite City, Ill., is reported to have argued in favor of his party’s members not neglecting to train their children in the legal profession. He said:

“The position of the lawyer in the Socialist Movement is of great importance. Every Socialist ought to familiarize himself with the Constitution and the statutes. If you induce your son not to take up the study of law, because the lawyer is said to be a parasite, you are depriving the Socialist Movement of a vital factor. A lawyer in the Socialist Movement can be compared with the sanitary department of an army. It is they who lay the plans.”

Lassalle struck a correct note when he said the Social Revolution comes equipped with all the science of its time. Jurisprudence is a science. It is closely related to history and economics. Often it is hard to distinguish from sociology. The lawyer, meaning, of course, not the shyster, but the jurist, is a valuable link in the revolutionary chain.

The “school” of the “Roughneck,” the element that holds none fit and worth considering whose being has not been coarsed with toil, the dwarfed and stunted members of society who claim to be revolutionary and yet lack the revolutionary breadth to grasp the deep philosophy of the maxim that the working class must emancipate itself—these would exclude the lawyer as they would the pest. Just as far away from the center of truth are those who hold the views of the S.P. Mayor of Granite City, a type of the pure and simple political Socialist.

The “Roughneck” excommunicates knowledge and all the polite acquirements of the race; the “Politician” excommunicates the toiler. Whoever excommunicates a necessity will be seen to succumb to that same necessity, abruptly and abjectly. Thus

the “Roughneck” will be seen led by the nose by freak intellectuals, and the “Politician” will be seen licking the boots of coarseness.

’Tis not the lawyer who will, or does, “lay the plans” in the Socialist Movement. The “laying of plans” is the function of the class-consciously and intellectually organized useful workers of society. The lawyer’s is an occupation that is of no permanence. It will not be known in the Socialist Republic. The worker at an occupation that is transitory is inherently unfit to “lay plans” for a permanent social order.

To expect from the lawyer anything outside of what a liberal education, generally, can and should contribute to the Socialist Movement, betrays a bourgeois bent of mind, as foreign to the Industrial Revolution, in point of structure as the “Roughneck” is foreign to the same Revolution in point of the self-imposed discipline of order.

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Uploaded June 2012

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