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EDITORIAL

THE “INSECT ANARCHIST.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

SOMETIME during the early months of 1896 (the exact date has slipped from the clipping, but could easily be ascertained from the files of the Chicago paper in question) the Illinois *Staats-Zeitung*, a capitalist paper, had an article in which a passage occurred, of which the below is a faithful rendition in English:

“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 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 more effectively and thoroughly than either police or District Attorneys.”

It is at seasons like this: with the country still outraged by Czolgosz’ act; with the leading capitalist paper buildings and other edifices still ostentatiously draped in mourning; with the remembrance still fresh on the public mind of the journalistic lionizing bestowed only a few months ago by the capitalist press upon a leading Anarchist, Prince Krapotkin; and with the savage, libelous howl against Socialism by virtually the whole capitalist press, together with its pulpiter and politician appendages still ringing in the public ear,—with all these facts as its “setting,” the above quoted “jewel” can be best appreciated.

The capitalist class know that they can not defeat Socialism with argument: they know that Socialism is built on the granite rock of Science; during their lucid intervals they even perceive that Socialism is bound to overthrow their rule. They feel all this. What to do? Abdicate? Evidently the twentieth century will not record the phenomenon of a social-economic class, that has outlived its usefulness, voluntarily abdicating. Evidently the sight that is in store is the same that has been witnessed all time, at every recurring period when the human race cast off an old

social slough and entered on a new period. That sight has ever been CHICANERY, the attempt to trip the oncoming social order by MURDER masked with DECEPTION. At each period the system of the scheme took a special aspect. What the aspect will be at this period the Illinois *Staats-Zeitung* indicates.

As, step by step, the fleecer class of America is adopting the methods of its fellows in Europe, we may expect to see the insect Anarchist “cultivated and reared” by the ruling class in the State as suggested by the Illinois *Staats-Zeitung*, for the purpose of devouring Socialism. Socialism can take care of itself, every bit as well as Capitalism, when struggling to overthrow Feudalism, was able to take care of itself against the then wiles that the Feudal rulers set in play. But what a perspective of horrors has not the capitalist scheme of “cultivating and rearing Anarchists!” The insect Anarchist, quickly scented by the Socialist, repelled and rendered helpless for its real mission, has a way of turning upon its own breeders—as amply illustrated by the hysterics, fear and insane rage that Czolgosz threw the class into, that monkeyed with the Krapotkins and whose sentiments the Illinois *Staats-Zeitung* voiced.

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

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