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EDITORIAL

LESSON NO. 2.

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SOME little time ago we summoned the Seattle, Wash., *Post-Intelligencer* from the benches in the school room, made it stand up, and read it a lesson in elemental American history. We promised not to forsake it, but to administer to it from time to time, as occasion might require, some further instruction. The occasion has come for the second lesson. This time it will be on the elements of logic.

In commenting upon the municipal platform of the Socialist Labor Party of its city, the *Post-Intelligencer* observes naively:

“The Socialist Labor Party wants the city to do everything for the individual, especially the idle and improvident individual.”

Now, pupil *Post-Intelligencer*, stand up and listen:

There are in modern society two sets of people: the Workers and the Idlers. The question to decide is, In the interest of which of these two is the Socialist Labor Party organized? Turn your eyes, pupil *Post-Intelligencer*, in the direction of the Socialist Labor Party and you will find in its ranks not one single “Captain of Industry,” so-called, or Capitalist. To imagine that an organization, that numbers none of this gentry in its ranks, would take the field in their interest is foolish. You will have to admit that the Socialist Labor Party is not builded for any such altruistic purpose. It follows that the Socialist Labor Party is not in the field in the interest of “Captains of Industry” or of “Capitalists.” Stick a pin there.

The next question to settle is whether these “Captains of Industry,” or Capitalist Class, belong under the rubric of “Workers,” or under that of “Idlers.” Look around again. Only the other day a shocking accident took place in the tunnel of the New York Central Railroad. Did you hear or read anything about Depew or any of the “Captains of Industry” in that line being arrested for the massacre that

took place? Speak up! No! None of them was. Someone was arrested, however. Who was that? A worker, the engineer. And you may have read the reports of the investigation that took place. From every line the fact peeps through that the “Captains of Industry,” or Capitalists in this case, did no work whatever: did not even know how the work was being done. If you look about you, you will find that the facts revealed by the tunnel catastrophe, are the facts everywhere else, in all industries. The “Captains of Industry,” so-called, or Capitalist Class, do no productive or useful work whatever. From top to bottom, the concerns are operated by the Working Class. Now, think close, pupil *Post-Intelligencer*: If you have before you two round things, one an apple the other a cobble-stone, and you don’t know which is apple and which cobble-stone, the absence of apple-qualities in the cobble-stone is proof that it is not “apple”; from that it follows that it must be “cobble-stone,” and furthermore that the other thing is “apple.” There being only “Workers” and “Idlers” in society, and the “Captains of Industry,” or Capitalist Class, having been proved to be no “Workers,” it follows that they must be “Idlers”: QUOD ERAT DEMONSTRANDUM.

Now with this demonstration in mind, it furthermore follows, pupil *Post-Intelligencer*, that when you say that the “Socialist Labor Party wants everything to be done for the idle,” you actually say that the “Socialist Labor Party wants everything to be done for the ‘Captains of Industry,’ or the Capitalist Class.” In other words you talk foolish: QUOD ETIAM ERAT DEMONSTRANDUM.

Having had your head again feather-dusted, you may now, pupil *Post-Intelligencer*, take your seat, and digest this simple lesson in the art of thinking correctly. When you have digested that, we shall subject you to some further mental house-cleaning.

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

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