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EDITORIAL

RIGHT FOR ONCE!

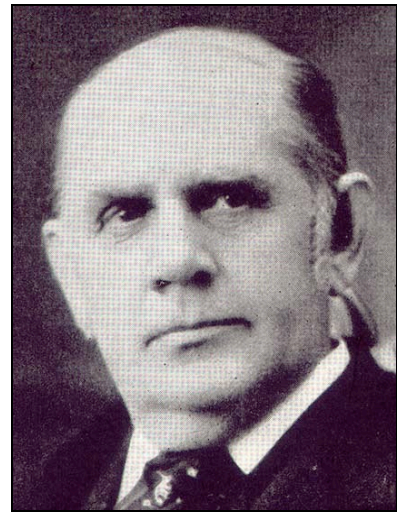
By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is not a common thing for a capitalist to be right. When, however, besides being a capitalist, he is a politician, the feat of making a correct statement, especially on the political outlook, is still rarer. This rarity was achieved last Tuesday night by the Hon. **Marcus A. Hanna**.

On that night, Republican notabilities to the number of five hundred sat down at a banquet in the Waldorf Astoria. Mr. Hanna was one of the speakers; he uttered much nonsense; but in the midst of the torrent of rubbish that dropped from his lips, there was one pearl. He foretold that the great issue which was approaching was the issue between Republicanism and "dangerous Socialism."

Mr. Hanna is right for once; and he is more than right; he reveals a remarkable degree of mental acumen, and frankness withal in uttering what his mental acumen perceives.

The specimen "Capitalist Vulgaris" knows of but one "Socialism"; to him Blatherskitism is Socialism; Single Tax vaporings is Socialism; Free Coinage is Socialism; Mrs. Nation is a Socialist; Cheap Gas is Socialism; and Socialism is the blows in the air given by the Blind Samson of Fakir-led Labor when it smashes a new labor-saving machine as a means to stop the decline of wages, or administers paregoric to scabs as a means to bring the capitalist to terms. The Hanna specimen of capitalist knows better. Not only does he know better than to consider tomfoolery Socialism, but he is able to discriminate between genuine and counterfeit Socialism. He knows that the counterfeit article is not "dangerous;" he knows that the counterfeit article is a safety valve that gives him and his class a chance{,} he knows that danger threatens his system of exploitation, of piracy and rapine only from the



MARCUS A. HANNA (1837-1904)

quarter of the genuine article. In short, he knows that the drift of the situation is eventually the eventful pitched battle between the Republican party and the Socialist Labor Party.

The term “dangerous Socialism,” which implies the existence of another kind of, a “harmless Socialism,” used by Mr. Hanna marks the gentleman a clear-headed politico-capitalist; and his recognition of the fact that he and his will inevitably have to measure themselves with the former, is a frank admission, for which he deserves credit, that all the influence and all the boodle he invested during the late Presidential campaign to set upon its feet and advertise the counterfeit and harmless article in the hope of killing off the Socialist Labor Party, in this State in particular, was just so much influence and boodle thrown away.

The Hon. Marcus A. Hanna was right, absolutely right for once.

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