

EDITORIAL

HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

CLOSE upon the heels of the capitalist press, parsons and politicians to fish in the waters, that Czolgosz' pistol shots troubled, follows the attempt in the same direction of the scrawny crew of labor fakirs. And it is natural. What else are these gentry but a caricature of capitalist vices, the menials of the Capitalist Class?

The candle-bearers of the Capitalist Class, bedecked with the high canonicals of Capitalism, started a howl against Socialism, and thus the nation saw the spectacle of Capitalism, the breath in whose nostrils is a reckless disregard for human life, the life of the Working Class, seek to cover up its own blood-stained tracks by the slander of imputing Czolgoszism to the Socialist Labor Party, the only political organization in the land the inspiring principle of whose existence is respect for human life. This comedy took place in the upper circles of Capitalism.

As always when masters make merry in the parlor, the menials imitate them below stairs. The labor fakirs essayed the same thing. They, the promoters of a system of Unionism, which, being deprived of an intelligent comprehension of the Labor Question, results regularly in deeds of violence: the smashing of machines, the waylaying of non-"Union men," the dealing of paregoric and worse things to them, blows, shots, etc., etc., of which the ill-starred rank and file has always to bear the consequences,—they, these labor fakirs, also joined their upstairs masters. Of this comedy below stairs, the notorious Syracuse, N.Y., *Labor (sic) World (sic)* gives an illustration that deserves to be placed on record. In its issue of September 21, that paper contains an article of which the following is a choice passage:

"We believe that Czolgosz was but a tool of others of superior intelligence who fired his brain with the idea that he was doing a noble deed in killing the President of the Republic. These exponents of hate and discontent are too cunning to get themselves into difficulty with the law, but by their rabid rantings inflame the minds of ignorant followers until they are ready to commit any crime.

“In many cases these apostles of the doctrine of hate and antagonism to law and order masquerade under the cloak of organized labor, but their disguise is easily penetrated. In fact, their warfare is also directed against trades unions, for the reason that the unions will have nothing whatever to do with them or their false theories.

“Unfortunately for Syracuse and organized labor, there are many of these dangerous disturbers and disrupters in our city, and although they call themselves Socialists and belong to trades unions, they are in reality Anarchists and merely retain membership in the unions to facilitate the work of disrupting them.

“These contemptible allies of the union-hating employees are cunning enough not to rejoice openly over the assassination of the President, but we have no doubt that among themselves they applaud the deed of their brother fanatic, Czolgosz, and in the event of the latter’s execution they will undoubtedly consider him a martyr and worship him as such.

“The unions to which such reptiles belong should rid themselves of these degenerates as soon as possible, not only for the benefit of organized labor, but out of regard for humanity at large.”

Who does not here detect the penny-whistle “below stairs” whine of the kicked dog, echoing the “above stairs” roar of his likewise kicked master, one touch of the S.L.P. kick having made the whole household kin.

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

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