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SECOND EDITORIAL

TRULY DISGRACEFUL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Richard Croker, the ex-plug-ugly, now capitalist and recognized leader of Tammany Hall, has inflicted upon the good name of America many a stain; the dirtiest though he inflicted last week. Said he:

From the South and West there always comes the hue and cry against New York, because it is the money centre of the United States. But whenever there is any great public improvement to be made in any section of this country, the first look for help is toward abused New York. They rush to our great city to raise the money. They come here for the means to build their railroads, to construct their water works, to erect the plants for gas service, and bond their cities for any kind of improvement. Then, no matter how much benefit is derived from this section of the country, there is always the same howl against the great city, because it is the money centre—that very centre without which public improvement would be an impossibility.

The stain upon the fair name of America consists, paradoxically enough, in the truth of Croker's words.

Here we have a large population, powerful in brain and brawn, inventive, industrious, actively inclined, and yet impotent to do the things they need unless given permission to do so; nay, worse yet, unless they consent to be bled.

Money builds nothing. It is labor—labor of mind and hands—that builds all. All the money in the world could not build a mole-hill; labor alone can and does produce mountainous wealth. What is it binds this Giant, laying it helpless at the feet of the Money Bags?—The capitalist system of production.

Capitalism implies individual production in so much as the tools of production are private property. The unavoidable result of this starting point is the need and the power of money. Organized co-operatively, society is emancipated from the Money Power; left to individual production, society is the slave of the Money Power. Society organized co-operatively, Labor is the starting point, society left to capitalism, Money is the starter.

The Tammany ex-plug-ugly is right. Those who uphold tyranny should be the last to howl as its workings; those who uphold capitalism certainly can not with good grace howl at its effects. That this truth should be told, and insultingly at that, to the American people by a Croker Money Bag should be enough to cause the scales to drop from the eyes of the genuine patriot and cause the Croker system to be drowned under the waves of oblivion.

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

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