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EDITORIAL

THE POLITICAL VULTURE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Mr. [Richard Croker](#) in his speech to the Tammany leaders concerning the condition of the young men who have their way to make in the world, does not attempt to deny that their situation is appalling; that there is absolutely no hope of escape from poverty for them. He draws a dark picture of the future in store for them, and then he displays the instincts of the vulture by endeavoring to take advantage of this misery.

The vulture preys on those animals that are dead or so badly crippled that they are incapable of resistance. So, Croker, seeing the helpless conditions of the young wage workers; seeing them bound hand and foot in the fetters of wage slavery, by the capitalist owners of the machinery of production, vulture-like seeks to take advantage of their helplessness and tear them with beak and talons,—or ice tongs.

In effect he says: “You must remain poverty-stricken wage slaves; your sisters must become his victims as wage slaves in his factories and shops or worse; you are discontented and looking for some way to Freedom; I will organize you for my own profit; not to break your chains; not to overturn that Republican-Democratic capitalist class and their system, but to push you deeper into the mire of the social hell to which capitalism condemns you. Selah.”

Every decent man must stand in horrified amazement at this exhibition of human depravity. Had Croker denied the existence of this misery, he might have been excused on the score of ignorance. But his knowledge and the advantage he seeks to take of it, reveal him as a harpy who would fatten on misery, a human vulture who only sees in the fettered condition of the young men a chance for Croker to increase his power and pelf.

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

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