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EDITORIAL

TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Out of the turmoil that capitalist conflicting interests have thrown the State of Kentucky into, there are rising to view facts thick as clusters of grape that are bound to tear to shreds the delusions behind which capitalist brigandage conceals its true features.

We have already commented on the fact that the Kentucky troubles are making an exhibition of the alleged “Law and Order” pretences of capitalism. Out of the din of “Law” and the turmoil of “Order” in Kentucky, now rises another monumental fact that, by throwing a calcium light upon capitalist political practices, allows a clear insight behind the pretences of the “Democracy” being a party hostile to the “Republican,” and vice versa. The insight gained demonstrates with cumulative evidence that the capitalist class is ONE, and that both the Democratic and the Republican party are but the political manifestations of this class. The tell-tale fact referred to is this:

As is well known, the whole Kentucky trouble hinges on the capitalist issue of “Monopoly” and “Anti-Monopoly”; that the “Monopoly” element is represented by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company, while the “Anti-Monopoly” element is made up of the small property-holding middle class; and, finally, that the political party upholding the “Monopoly” banner is the Republican party, while the Democratic party is the political body around which the “Anti-Monopoly” hosts are marshalled. This is all well known, and was made clear in last week’s issue. Now, then, following the reasoning that the political understrappers of capitalism insinuate by their political gabble, it would follow that only dyed-in-the-wool Republicans could be back of the Republican claimant to the Governorship, the militia-wielding Taylor. And yet, not so. Taylor, the Republican; Taylor, the upholder of the “noble Republican colors” against the “smutty rag of the Democracy”; Taylor, the “Republican champion,” is doing battle behind the

“Monopolist” entrenchments of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company; the General-in-Chief, Field Marshal, or Supreme Commander of these “Monopolist” entrenchments, under whose orders Taylor is operating is the president of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company; and—who is this president? Surely some Republican thorough-paced capitalist; surely some worthy, distinguished in the Republican camp, a life-long upholder of the “noble Republican colors” and life-long condemner of the “smutty rag of Democracy”; surely—but why keep our readers longer in suspense? This president is THE DEMOCRAT, LIFE-LONG DEMOCRAT, RAMPANT DEMOCRAT, MR. AUGUST BELMONT!!

When some nine years ago there was “trouble” with miners in Idaho, the Republican President obeyed orders from the Democrat Belmont, who owned the mines, and he sent the Federal troops to settle the strike; when shortly afterwards there was “trouble” with the East Tennessee miners, the Democratic Governor of Tennessee obeyed orders from the Republican Tom Platt, who owned the mines, and sent the militia post-haste to settle that “trouble”; and so forth, and so on.

The Republican and the Democratic party are not hostile political institutions; they are but pulsations of one and the same institution and class, to wit, the capitalist system and the capitalist class. The show of “war” is kept up between the two so as to divide the ranks of the working class on Election Day, and thereby eliminate the workers as political factors.

To understand and realize this fact, on the part of the workers, is tantamount to such solidification of their ranks as will be tantamount to turning the tables upon the capitalists and eliminating the capitalist class as a factor in the political and economic field.

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

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