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EDITORIAL

SOCIALISM AND ANARCHY.

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THE Dayton, O., *Daily News*, whose economic ignorance we have more than once laid bare, and whose immorality, as betrayed by its malevolent misrepresentations, we have more than once pitch-forked, gives us another chance to throw an X-ray into the intellectual make-up of that portion of the press that acts as the lackey for the class that fleeces the toilers of the land. Says this luminary:

“Socialism is the primary school of agitation. There is but a step between it and anarchy. The latter would be impossible without the former.”

The man of the story who first put the cart before the horse is not in it with the Dayton, O., *Daily News*.

Anarchy is the cradle of the human race. It implies three things: an unregulated mind, a narrow horizon, and the self-sufficiency of the savage, whether he walk on two feet or on all fours.

Taking these three features in their inverse order, the savage is individualistic at every fibre, hence egotistic like untutored infancy. Indeed, egotism is virtually another spelling for individualism. In his savage stage, the individual is all unto himself. Among other things, his own avenger. The reason thereof is the narrowness of his horizon. As yet he has not learned the utter weakness of the individual and the strength of the species. As a result of all this, the mechanism of his thinking faculties is not yet in working order. It is from that low intellectual stage that the human race slowly pulled itself up by the hair. It was a painful process, but it took place. By degrees man learned to regulate his thoughts: the broadening of his horizon opened to him the vistas of the possibilities of his species, and thereby threw his individualism gradually to the rear. Aye, he learned to subjugate the beast as the only condition, first, of safety, next, of well-being. Anarchy accordingly,

that apotheosis of individualism, i.e., of the beast, lies far behind in the development of the race. What there is of it to-day is merely atavistic manifestations.

Socialism on the contrary, being the lineal descendent of Capitalism, is the sublimation of the Social Ideal. Capitalism creates the conditions thereto by compelling co-operation; Socialism strips the civilizing kernel of co-operation from the husk of Capitalism. While Capitalism, being theoretically still individualistic, might be justly charged with bearing the congenital mark of Anarchism, Socialism is wholly free from the taint, and can neither breed nor promote the thing.

To pronounce Socialism the generator of Anarchy is as absurd a sociologic proposition, as it would be biologically absurd to declare man the generator of the shell-fishes of the early Eocene.

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