

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 126.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1912.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

POLITICAL ASSASSINATION.

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SO lofty is the goal of the Socialist, that the vulgar instinct of “hitting back” can not animate him. Free, accordingly, from the immoral taint of a vulgar purpose, the Socialist is justified in placing upon the dissecting table the psychology back of the act of the would-be assassin of Col. Roosevelt.

At the time of the assassination of McKinley, by Czolgosz, a season when the Ruling Class, the Roman Catholic political hierarchy leading, out-Heroded Herod in the calumnious endeavor to fasten the crime upon Socialism, the Socialist Labor Party published an address—*Socialism vs. Anarchy*—in which the psychology of political homicide was historically and scientifically treated.

It was therein shown that modern political homicide has its roots in the false conception of modern social movements as being the creation of, and dependent upon one man, whom to remove was equivalent to removing the movement that he chieftained. In the course of illustrating the fact with historic events down to the present day, the address took up the record of political homicide furnished by the products of the Roman Catholic political hierarchy ambushed behind religion. After running through the long list of Roman Catholic political assassins, from Balthasar Gerard in the Sixteenth Century, down to Czolgosz himself in the opening year's of this century, the address proceeded to argue:

“It is no accident that these were all brought up by the Roman Catholic political hierarchy during the tender years which that same hierarchy recognizes as the most important in shaping the future man's mind. I say it is no accident. Not, indeed, that the Roman Catholic hierarchy makes it a practice of preaching assassination; not that. But that—unable, as it would seem, to free itself from its patriarchal and subsequent feudal habits, and becoming in our days the handmaid of the capitalist system of despotism—it instills into its pupils, not the to-day true and elevating principle that government is a reflex of social conditions, but the to-day false and de-

grading theory that social conditions are a reflex of government: a theory that by exaggerating the value of the individual act, by thus inflating the individual self-love, needs but to fall upon favorable soil to inevitably breed the assassin.”

John Schrank, a product of and still a member of the Roman Catholic political machine, and paranoiacally vain-glorious of his homicidal attempt, is the latest illustration of the perverted political sources and the perverted psychology of political homicide.

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Uploaded April 2014

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