

EDITORIAL

## BOURBONISM IN LITTLE FALLS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE hearts of all people, who have not slid back below the height of the civilization reached by the Bourgeois Revolution, will follow Mayor George R. Lunn of Schenectady into the prison cell to which he has been confined in Little Falls for daring to speak in the open to the workmen on strike in that village, and for daring to express his sympathy with them.

In bearding the Bourbon forces of feudally reactionary capitalism on their own dunghill, Mayor Lunn is performing up-State the invaluable service that Mayor Gaynor, true to the best traditions of his class, performed in this city when he stayed the club-armed arm of the policemen who, early in the Mayor's administration sought to muzzle the Freedom of Speech in this city.

The roses that are to bloom in the garden of the Socialist, or Industrial Commonwealth are not all flowers of Socialist planting. Many of them are flowers of the planting of previous social revolutions. The flower of Free Speech is such. It is an inheritance of the Bourgeois or Capitalist Class Revolution from which the pending Socialist or proletarian class revolution is the direct descendant. It is, moreover, a flower without whose perfume the riper flowers of Socialism could never take root.

In the hurly of the transitional period that the Nation is now traversing, our peoples divide themselves, generally into two categories:—

One category consists of the desecrators of Free Speech. These move along various paths. The Bourgeois reactionist seeks to stamp Free Speech out of existence by clubbing it on the head with official clubs. Another path is the path followed by the Anarchist—the gaunt shadow of Bourbonism. He desecrates Free Speech by dragging Freedom down to the mire of License.

The other category also consists of two elements—the element which, while not yet further advanced than, nevertheless breathes the invigorating reminiscences of,

the virile days of the Bourgeois Revolution, and the element which, holding fast to the past conquests of civilization, and steadied by such conquests, is on the march towards the Socialist or Industrial Republic.

As the *Daily People* at the time applauded Mayor Gaynor, although he is admittedly an anti-Socialist, so the *Daily People* to-day applauds Mayor Lunn, although his conception of Socialism is not the one that leads to, but may even retard the Industrial Republic. All that matters little in the present instance.

The Socialist is not an aerolite dropped on earth and disconnected from his surroundings. Altho' grave is the danger that flows from too fixed a gaze upon the Socialist's non-Socialist affinities—altho' serious deflections from the right path may result therefrom, as illustrated by the stealable platform of Mayor Lunn's own Socialist party, and of the innumerable instances, himself one of them, of his party's candidates fusing with, or accepting endorsements from, "radical" bourgeois organizations—all that notwithstanding, as heartily as, more heartily than the Socialist Labor Party applauded Mayor Gaynor, the S.L.P. to-day applauds Mayor Lunn.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded March 2014

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)