

EDITORIAL

THE MODERN JANUS HEAD.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**A**CCIDENTALLY,” there landed on this editorial desk two papers from widely different quarters of the globe, the October 12 issue of the *Hamburger Echo*, organ of the German Social Democracy in Hamburg, and the October 25 issue of the Paterson, N.J., *Morning Call*, organ of some wing or other of the Capitalist Class of the United States, in general, Paterson in particular. The two papers landed on this desk within 60 seconds of each other.

The leading editorial in the *Hamburger Echo*, front page, first column, dealing with Anarchy, cites a certain passage from Franz Mehring’s *History of the German Social Democracy*. It is this:

“It is clear that ‘non-political Socialism’ carries a Janus head, which, on one side shows a quite harmless, on the other side very blood-thirsty face. A Socialism that recommends abstinence from political activity, and yet contemplates the over throw of bourgeois society, perforce runs either into harmless ‘self-help,’ sectarianism and utopianism, or into secret conspiracies, schemes of assassination and riot.”

The Paterson *Morning Call*, also on the front page, contains a report of a meeting addressed by Mr. James P. Thompson, a General Organizer of the Chicago I.W.W.,—an Anarch concern better known as the “Bummery,” the literature of which recommends theft, sabotage, and other mischiefs, assassination included—and who, having pursued in Lawrence at the time of the strike some of the practises of his “organization” received a sound thrashing from some of the strikers themselves, whereupon he hurriedly left the place for other pastures green. The gentleman’s address reported in the Paterson *Morning Call* sounds like the cooing of the gentlest of turtle doves.

Capitalism, together with its offal, furnishes the facts: Socialism gathers these,

and sets up its theory regarding principles and tactics. The principles and tactics of the Social Revolution, preached by Socialism, are then confirmed, from day to day, by the further and cumulative facts furnished by the furnishers of the primal facts from which Socialism started. Day by day Capitalism furnishes the facts that corroborate Socialist economics. Not a day passes but some such fresh fact furnishes the illustration for some Socialist principle in economics that the Socialist literature of that same day enunciates. Similarly, not a day passes but some fresh fact furnishes the illustration for some maxim concerning tactics that the Socialist literature of that same day proclaims anew.

The appearance of the *Hamburger Echo* and of the *Paterson Morning Call* upon this desk, almost simultaneously, the former proclaiming anew the double-facedness of Anarchy, the latter illustrating the fact, is one of those “accidents” that go to prove there is no such thing as “accident.”

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