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EDITORIAL

SOCIALISM AND THE WORKING CLASS.

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THE question, Is Socialism a principle involving the working class, or is it merely love for the working class? that comes to this office from California, discloses the luxuriousness of Sentimentalism that Socialist agitation, unaccompanied by Socialist education, is causing to spring up in the land.

The tenet that the Socialist Movement is a class struggle, the struggle between the Working Class and the Capitalist Class is frequently seized upon without fuller reading of the literature that explains the terms of the statement.

Revolutions are conflicts between two classes that typify different class interests. The class interests of a ruling class typify that class; the class interests of a ruled class typify that class. Instead of reciting the long list of the interests of the capitalist class, the interests are summed up in the short term "Capitalist Class"; instead of reciting the long list of the interests of the working class, these interests are summed up in the short term "Working Class."

Socialism is the Movement that plants itself upon the class interests of the Working Class. In doing so what Socialism declares is that the Social Revolution means the supplanting of Capitalist Class with Working Class interests.

It follows, as a matter of course, that the bulk of a Class will be found identified with its own interests. It is obviously so in the present struggle. Hardly a capitalist is found tugging for the overthrow of his own class; and, of those who seem to be so tugging, the majority are not doing so in fact, but in phrases: the economic demands that they push to the front are demands that can accrue only to the benefit of capitalist property-holders; on the other hand, while the bulk of the workers seem to be straining for the perpetuation of capitalism, and seem to be "bucking" Socialism, they, with relatively few exceptions of mental cripples, are constantly and instinctively but not yet consciously tugging in behalf of working class interests.

Socialism, accordingly, does not “involve” the working class; it is banked upon working class INTERESTS, and, as a consequence, is bound to depend mainly upon working class class-consciousness. Finally, Socialism is not “merely love for the working class”: it is devotion to the class interests of the working class on the ground that upon those interests, and none other, is the Socialist Republic, hence the emancipation of man possible.

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