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EDITORIAL

“INHERENT ROWDYISM.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

LOUISVILLE despatches report a collision between Union and non-Union men as the latest episode of the car strike in that city. According to the report, a band of Union men attacked a car that was run by a non-Union crew; fifty shots are said to have been fired by the attacking party, which was finally dispersed by the police. As a general thing, no cautious man will rely upon “news” of this nature peddled by the Democratic-Republican-Reform press. These papers are organs of capitalist interests. Their mission, accordingly, is to convey false information regarding Labor. Nevertheless, while the Louisville riot may be an invention out of the whole cloth, or a much exaggerated affair, there is strong likelihood of its being true. The likelihood proceeds from the circumstance that just such occurrences, as reported from Louisville, are known to have occurred in other places, and are recurring daily.

Of course, the Republican-Democratic-Reform press gloats over these “illustrations” of what it pleases to call “the inherent rowdyism of Labor,” and of what it delights in pointing to as “evidence of the necessity” of the iron rule of capitalism. There were other Usurpers—predecessors of the Capitalist Class, whose spokesman the Reform-Republican-Democratic press now is,—who held similar language about their subjects, held similar views about themselves, and finally “laughed at the wrong end of their mouths.”

When feudalism was organizing itself, royalty gloated at the internecine feuds of the lords. The “inherent rowdyism” of these was the standard theme, and reason among the royal favorites for the iron rule of the King. Royalty and its minions little realized that what they complacently termed “rowdyism” was in fact a “struggle for order” and to ascertain the path of progress. That path once found, the wings of royalty were clipped, and constitutional monarchy was born.

Later yet, when capitalism was at its stage of formation, constitutional royalty never ceased to make merry over the “inherent rowdyism” of the oncoming bourgeois, nor could its sycophants sufficiently dwell upon the evidence furnished by the “turbulent bourgeois” of the necessity of the strong hereditary hand of the King. As formerly with autocratic royalty, subsequent constitutional monarchy failed to perceive the “law of a new order” shaping itself amidst seeming “inherent rowdyism.” Its blindness did not check the development that was going on. One fine day confidence was turned into despair; the former “rowdies,” having finally ascertained the law of their motion, threw down constitutional monarchy, and the reign of the bourgeois was set on foot.

Such is the condensed sketch of the history of the social evolution back of the present sovereignty of capitalism in America—and history is repeating itself. Like autocratic royalty, at first, and then, like constitutional royalty, the present ruling and usurping class is slumbering upon a volcano. As in the instances of its predecessors, the capitalist Pirate is drawing comfort from what, in fact, portends his ruin. Were there, to-day, no “rowdyism” in the field of the Working Class, then, indeed, would there be security for enthroned Piracy. The very fact that “rowdyism” is found among the workers is the unmistakable sign that the wage slave class—like the feudal lords of old, and, later, the bourgeois—is in that ferment which implies a “struggle for order” and to ascertain the path of further progress. That ferment and struggle ever proved successful in the discovery and establishment of the principles blindly groped after. From the “rowdyism” in Louisville, and in all the other places where the proletariat is massed, will leap the Truth which the “rowdies” unconsciously are striving after. Through that “rowdyism” the proletariat will discover glimmerings of their goal—the overthrow of the Pirate class of capitalism. The goal once perceived, however dimly, the means will rise, tho’ also dimly at first, before the eyes. Goal and means, acting and reacting upon each other, will act as mutual clarifiers. Aided by Socialist Labor Party literature and propaganda, the goal will presently appear in all its distinctness of its radiance—THE REPUBLIC OF LABOR; and the means will be equally obvious—the political unity of the proletariat, as the trumpeter and scout, the industrial unity of the proletariat as the Army of Occupation.

The modern despot, the Capitalist Class, may well laugh while it may. The “rowdyism” of to-day, is but the rungs of the ladder EXPERIENCE. Eventually, if not sooner, thanks to this very “rowdyism,” the present self-complacent gigglers will be laughing at the wrong end of their mouths.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org