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EDITORIAL

WE BRING THE JUBILEE!

By DANIEL DE LEON

PATHETIC is the plight of that element in society that Representative De Armond of Missouri represents. Listen to the wail that the gentleman emitted in his address on April 7th before the Yale Political Club at New Haven:

“There is a rapid, menacing increase of judicial power by judicial construction.” And Representative De Armond can not be charged with having drawn the picture too black. No doubt, the instances of the judiciary’s arrogating legislative powers to itself, by riding roughshod over Congressional enactments, are even more numerous than the Representative cited, and they are decidedly menacing. But, no sooner had Representative De Armond finished that part of his address than he took up another that very materially undid the first. “The Constitution,” the Representative went on to say, “was brought forth in primitive times. It ought to be adapted to the age of steam, electricity and prodigious wealth.” In other words, the Constitutional enactments of Congress are no longer applicable to the case. What’s to be done? To continue to fit the country to the Constitution is like trying, instead of fitting clothes to a man, to fit the man to clothes—a preposterous idea. On the other hand, to furnish the man new clothes without a previous agreement upon the unfitness of the old measure, and without previous agreement upon what new measure is fit, would be of the essence of Anarchy: it would be to make each individual in power the standard of what is deemed fit. That’s what the judiciary is doing. What does sense dictate under such circumstances?

Long ago did James Madison foretell the present pinch, nor did his foresight fall short of the remedy, in the rough. He pointed out that when the day that he foresaw—the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few and the pauperization of the masses—should have arrived, then it would become imperative to adapt the

Constitution and institutions of the land to the changed conditions in such wise as may preserve the people's liberty.

Does the element represented by De Armond propose to tackle that problem? No! They are mortally afraid to do so.

The Political State has seen its day and done its work. A new form of Government, the Industrial, is ready to take the place of the former. The bourgeois system of society, which the Constitution was the garb of, has changed completely. A new social system—that of Socialism—has risen. The old clothes do not fit the new body. The De Armonds would patch up the rents in the old suit; but the cloth is rotten with age and will not hold the stitches. The Judiciary, aware of this, is arrogating to itself constitutional powers, and each judge, as a separate tailor, is cutting out patterns to suit his private fancy.

There is but one band of men—those organized under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party, together with those organized upon the Preamble of the I.W.W.—that boldly, fearlessly, intelligently face the problem which causes the De Armonds to wail. That band does not stand between the Devil of impending social dissolution, and the deep sea of Socialism that will engulf the De Armonds. That band—animated by the Madisonian advice, and its steps guided by the Marxian beacon light—has before it something better than the Hobson's choice which lies before the De Armonds. That band says:

“Away with the Capitalist State! Away with the Political State! Make room for the Socialist Republic—the Industrial form of Government—the Commonwealth of Labor! We bring the Jubilee!”

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

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