

EDITORIAL

AN IMITATION BILL NYE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE New York *American* is making a terrible hullabaloo about the repeaters who are being hauled up, and who are confessing. “Think of it!” cries the Hearst paper, “one of them voted forty times and ten ballots each time!” All that the *American* need{ed} to add, in order to make the exclamation complete, and square it to the orthodox formula of Truthful James’s Bill Nye is: “Can this be? We are ruined by the Tammany Ah Sin of cheap labor!”

Tammany is not even an Ah Sin of perfection in election frauds, although the wigwam is undoubtedly an expert. The Republican organization of Philadelphia could “give cards and spades” to Democratic Tammany and win out, hands down; the Republican party, as a national institution, has emblazoned on its armorial bearings of post-bellum days the glorious motto of “Blocks of Five,” an “In hoc signo vinces” that carried Garfield triumphantly into the White House. Alternately, the Democratic and then the Republican machine of San Francisco and Chicago have performed feats of ballot stuffing that caused Tammany to grow green with envy. In fact, with good color of right could Tammany say: “I am no worse than most, and not quite as bad as some.”

When the same results are found under different special conditions the cause can not be the special condition in any one instance. The cause must be searched for deeper in some condition shared by all. Whether the condition “Murphy” is found in one place, or the condition “Emil Swift” in another, or the condition “Rueff” in a third, all places in the land, Tuxedo not excepted, nor yet Newport, share a certain condition—involuntary poverty, due to locked social and natural opportunities.

Where opportunities to earn a decent living are barred to all but the few, there poverty and the fear of poverty, if anything, a more dangerous evil, are inevitable results. Given this condition of things, crime springs up and thrives like weeds,

running its roots far and wide and deep.

Capitalism is the dog in the manger that blocks the people's opportunities. Not only does it block popular opportunities, it does not utilize the opportunities which it seizes. Back of the crime that sods the land—breaking out from ballot-box stuffings up to bank directors' frauds—is Capitalism. The Capitalist Class is the Rep-Dem-Ind. pillar that keeps up the crime-breeding structure of Capitalism. Each Hearst paper is a pillaret of the same structure, and Hearst the architectural hoop that surrounds the pillarets.

Every capitalist who is counted out, or is otherwise defrauded of his election, and sets up a howl against corruption, is an imitation Bill Nye whose swindle is outswindled by a cleverer Ah Sin.

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

Uploaded January 2010

slpns@slp.org