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EDITORIAL

## A MONTH OF GAYNOR

By DANIEL DE LEON

**N**EW York City has now had one month of Mayor William J. Gaynor's administration. True enough, that is only one forty-eighth of the Mayor's term. All the same this one month justifies a certain conclusion, to wit: Seeing that the organized Socialist Movement was still so far from ripe as not to have had the slightest chance of taking possession of the City Hall, it was a bit of good luck for social development that the clash of interests among the bourgeois class, last November, resulted in the ominous figure of a Hearst being kept out; that it was a bit of still better luck that a Bannard's march to triumph was blocked; that it was, under the circumstances, a bit of luck better still that a Gaynor was seated.

Socialism, not being Anarchy, is planted upon social evolution. The Socialist recognizes in the Present the issue of the Past, and the progenitor of the Future. Social evolution, at any one stage, can only gain from the purity of the type then prevalent. Mongrelism bastardizes evolution. Capitalism, the social system of today, has, with all the sins against which Socialism is up in arms, certain virtues. Its virtues consist in blasting the tunnel across the mountain ridge of feudalism in order to clear the path for Socialism. The virtues of Capitalism to this end may be summed up in the word ORDER—civic ORDER. Capitalism, despite all its inhumanity, is charged with the lofty task, among other things, of leading society out of the turbulence of feudal conditions into the orderly ones that afford opportunity for reasoning. This set of capitalist virtues, named collectively "bourgeois freedoms," consists of freedom of speech, press, assemblage.

These virtues are dear to Socialism—they are the tunneled road to the Socialist Republic. That tunneled road has, in this city, been hitherto kept encumbered by governmental rowdyism, a vestige of feudal turbulence, the "unwashed" rowdyism of a Tammany alternating with the "washed," but equal rowdyism of an element

that is typified in a Seth Low. Under such conditions social evolution has been hampered. Thus the Socialist Movement found itself tangled by vestiges of feudal issues. Mayor Gaynor's administration promises fair to give the city four years that will be free from such feudal nuisances. The Mayor's firm, consistent and persistent stand against Police brutality typifies the New Era.

The Socialist Labor Party asks no favors from Capitalism. All that the S.L.P. asks of Capitalism is that it be true to itself. True at every point to a part of itself, Capitalism is bringing to a head the social ulcer, long gathering through the ages, of the private ownership of the necessaries for production, that Socialism may lance it; untrue to another part of itself, the political representatives of Capitalism in this Empire City of the land have been deporting themselves like medieval junkers.

Uncompromisingly opposed to Capitalism, yet Socialism venerates the historic double mission of the capitalist system to point the path to the Co-operative Commonwealth, and to sweep the path clean of feudal encumbrances. So, likewise, uncompromisingly opposed to Mayor Gaynor as a political expression of capitalist class interests, that is, of capitalist sins, the Socialist Labor Party applauds the integrity with which the Mayor is upholding capitalist virtues, that is, the bourgeois freedoms, without which we all would tumble back into the rough-and-tumble of the Dark Ages.

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](mailto:slpns@slp.org)