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EDITORIAL

## CAPITALISM ASSISTANT TEACHER.

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“**C**APITALIST Tricks Rob 4,000 Buffalo Workers of Vote” is the flaming first deck of a heading—the second deck of which contains the legend: “Levy Election Law, Which Enables Employers to Find Out Whether Their Slaves are Socialists or Not, Prevents Working Class From Registering”—with which the Buffalo *Socialist*, comes out in its issue of October 26.

The Buffalo *Socialist* is an organ of the peculiar brand of Socialism that is dispensed by the Socialist party—a party of pure and simple politics that preaches the theory: “Get votes! Get them in any way! Votes only count! Get them and thereby conquer the political offices whereby to legislate Socialism into existence. There is no other way.”

Keeping this fact in mind, when one reads from such a source an admission of helplessness against capitalistic schemes of labor-disfranchisement, the expectation is to read an article that warns against the folly of pure and simple politicianism. The expectation is to read the announcement of some change of front, due to a discovery, which, however unnecessary the same should be to Socialists, nevertheless, having had to be made and having been made, will cause the discoverer to “tack”—tack somehow obedient to the lesson that the discovery should impart. The expectation falls. The article, that the headlines introduce, is one continuous screech—a screech of impotent rage and flat satire, flanked with a large picture of Charles Edward Russell, the S.P. candidate for Governor, the gentleman who is of the opinion that it will take a million years to unite the Working Class.

An article by Al Priddy entitled “Controlling the Passions of Men in Lawrence” and published in *The Outlook* of October 19, sets forth the valuable services that the police and other officials of Lawrence rendered to the anti-political, or rather non-political, or clearer yet, to the Anarch Chicago I.W.W., by the exasperation-inciting

brutality that the said police was guilty of, and the article closes with an account of how the subsequent strike in New Bedford, although managed by the identical Chicago I.W.W., fell flat by reason of the greater wisdom that animated the police of that town. The passage closes with these words: “That [the wisdom of the police] decided, too, the outcome. of the strike. The I.W.W. [read Chicago I.W.W.] had found its most potent sting—riotous incentive—withdrawn.”

Capitalism is an invaluable assistant teacher to Socialism. Socialists, that is people whose Socialism no Roosevelt would ever dare burglarize, might preach till they are black in the face against the twin follies of pure and simple political Socialism and pure and simple physical force Unionism. It requires the aid of Capitalism to bring home the truths of Socialism by illustrating them. Obedient to the law that drives it on, Capitalism brings home to the proletariat the fated necessity of overthrowing Capitalist Rule. Obedient to the same laws of its own existence, Capitalism is exposing the false, and is bringing home to the proletarians the only methods for its overthrow—the unity of Labor upon the political, jointly with the industrial field.

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