

EDITORIAL

FORAKER ON CONTRADICTIONS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

BEFORE us lies in special print the speech delivered by ex-Senator Joseph B. Foraker of Ohio, delivered this spring in Cincinnati at the annual dinner of the Ohio Commander of the Loyal Legion of the United States. The issuers of the speech must be feeling very proud of it, at least they must be laboring under the belief that it is a squelcher of Socialism, whose demands are pronounced “contradictory,” without, however, remotely hinting what the contradiction is, or in what it consists.

But if the Senator, the exposure of whose Standard Oil connections earned for him the prefix “ex,” failed to illustrate the contradictions of Socialism, he did not fail to exhibit the contradiction that animates his own position.

If Socialism is the impiousness that ex-Senator Foraker pronounces it, impiousness against the “work of the Revolutionary Fathers,” so impious that, as the ex-Senator declares, “the first duty is to acquaint people with what is going on,” what a crass contradiction is it not on the ex-Senator’s part that, in so carefully prepared and printed a speech, that he so wholly neglects his “first duty.”

He fails to acquaint people with the fact that out of a population of at least 20,000,000 breadearners, industrious as no where else, the wealth of the land is found in the hands of a negligible number, the workers being in such poverty, the idlers in such affluence, that an income tax above the limit of \$4,000 falls only upon a handful—424,900, a number not large enough to populate two Congress Districts out of the present 435.

He fails to acquaint the people with the fact that, as tariff, mining, railroading, etc., hearings have proved, the biggest part of legislation is contrived to empower the rich few to enthrall, to plunder, to despotize the poor and industrious many.

He fails to acquaint the people with the warning of Madison—whose name he uses, but whose works he either never read, or tries to keep dark upon,—that the day would come in the land when the majority of the people would be property-less and without the hope of acquiring any.

He fails to acquaint the people with the fact that that same Madison—one of the only four Revolutionary Fathers whose names he declares deserve the reverence of posterity—foretold that the institutions of the land would then have to be altered to meet the changed conditions, and that the change, needed to preserve freedom, would require the wisdom of the best and most patriotic of the citizens of the day that he foresaw.

To sum up, ex-Senator Foraker failed to acquaint the people with the fact that he himself and his breed did not mark up to the requirements which Madison considered the statesman of that future day was to be equipped with.

But possibly ex-Senator Foraker realized that the Socialists already were in possession of all these and kindred facts, and that increasing numbers were rapidly acquiring the information, hence that it was superfluous for him to go through the long list himself.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded August 2015

slpns@slp.org