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EDITORIAL

Mark the Men and the Occurrences

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Samuel E. Badanes, an intelligent young Socialist of this city, and residing at 27 St. Marks Place, applied on Tuesday, July 21st, for his final citizenship papers at the United States District Court in the Federal Building. He had evidently satisfactorily passed the slight examination required when Commissioner Lyman, then in charge of the Naturalization Bureau, glancing at the petitioner's papers, remarked, "Ah, a native of Russia, eh! Are you also one of those Nihilists?" "No, I'm no Nihilist," replied the applicant. Turning to the young man's witness, Chas. Rosenblum, of 106 East Broadway, the Commissioner remarked, "And what are you?" The witness, entirely unprepared for the question, promptly answered, "A Socialist." "And what are your beliefs?" asked the Commissioner, turning again to the applicant. The young man, evidently emboldened by the courageous answer of his witness, replied, "I'm also a Socialist." "You are, eh? Well, get out of this room, and don't dare come in here again." The applicant and his witness, not leaving quickly enough to suit one of the officers, were taken hold of and hustled out of the room.

Is it an accident that this occurrence took place almost simultaneously with the ruffianly outbreak of the Anarchists in London against the International Socialist Labor Congress that just opened its sessions?

The purpose of Anarchy is to prevent the peaceful solution of the Social Question. Violence, rapine, murder, such are the weapons of Anarchy, and with an intensity of hatred, all the intenser by reason of their physical and intellectual impotence, the Anarchists dog the heels of the peacefully intelligent and intelligently peaceful movement of Socialism wherever a chance offers. They can accomplish nothing, this they know full well; their numbers melt away in proportion as light breaks in upon them; and, away beyond their reach towers the gigantic Socialist movement; yet, nevertheless, periodically, as just now in London, they will fire off their blank cartridges and pop guns at the Socialists, and seem to derive satisfaction from the annoyance they cause.

At first blush one might imagine that the genuine Anarchists are the exact opposites the capitalist class or its lackeys, the office-holders. This is an error. The two sets are birds of a feather, crows of the same nest. The ones, as the others, are narrow, ignorant, brutal and cruel by instinct—the genuine Anarchists, through accumulated suffering; the capitalist class and its lackeys, through accumulated successes in rascality and the art of bullyragging the very class that feed them.

Of this startling fact the proofs are numerous; from time to time we have published them in these columns; with the additional proofs of the direct connection between usurping capitalism and demented Anarchy, together with the material support given the latter by the former, and the moral support received by the former from the latter. No further back than in our issue of last May 10th we quoted from the capitalist Illinois *Staats-Zeitung*, printed in Chicago, the following unguarded admission:

“We have always been of the opinion that it takes the devil to drive out Belzebub with, that Socialism must be fought with Anarchy. The same as the corn louse and similar insects are driven out by setting against them certain other insects that devour them and their eggs, so should the State CULTIVATE AND REAR ANARCHISTS in the principal nests of Socialism, and leave to the Anarchists the work of destroying Socialists. The Anarchists will do the work much more effectively and thoroughly than either police or District Attorneys.”

The conduct of capitalist lackey Commissioner Lyman is the latest straw pointing in the same direction.

His breach of law, the violation of his oath of office, the brutality and ruffianism of his conduct towards the applicant for citizenship, Samuel E. Badanes, are at all points Anarchistic: Anarchistic not only in their essence, as implying an utter disregard for the rights of others and lack of self-respect; not only Anarchistic in aim, as indicating a set purpose to enrage and thereby force the bomb in the workers' hands by browbeating and keeping the ballot from them; but Anarchistic also in effect, as being UTTERLY FUTILE. The Socialist Revolution is the revolution of Civilization. Come it must; succeed it must; and come and succeed it will upon its own deliberate lines.

In the meantime we mark the men and mark the acts they commit—the Anarchists with their Peukerts and Ravachols, the capitalists with their lackeys, the Lymans and Clevelands, Harrisons, Hannas, Bryans, Tillmans, etc.—and abide our time.

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