

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 9, NO. 339.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## “A FAIR PROFIT.”

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**I**F the capitalists out of Congress know their business they will burn all the speeches made by their political agents on the tariff inside of Congress. They would not allow one of these speeches to survive. It is not merely that hardly a speech on either side of the tariff tells some tale out of school. That would be bad enough. The worst, the most “unpatriotic,” “anti-law-and-order” fact of all is that all these speeches agree in one thing, and that thing a thing that can not be granted without the bottom is knocked from under Capitalism and a foundation is established for Socialist charges against the present social system.

There is not one of these speeches but advocates legislating “a fair profit” for capital. The thing is advocated either expressly, by the protectionists, or impliedly, by the anti-protectionists.

Express legislation to insure any kind of a profit, fair or otherwise, to the capitalist is a denial of the leading boast of capitalism—self-reliance, individuality. It is, for that very reason, a recognition of merit in that which capitalists falsely charge Socialism with—a desire to lean upon the Government.

Legislation looking to insure the return of capitalism, implies the need of legislative economic support by the capitalist.

Legislation looking to insure fair, or any, profits to the capitalist implies the capitalist’s need of being taken under the arm by the Government.

Legislation looking to insure fair, or any, profits to the capitalist can proceed only from the theory that, without such legislative prop, the economic existence of all the people is in danger; it, furthermore, implies that, if the capitalist, the man of property needs such propping then the need must be all the greater with the wagger earner, the man of no property; it, finally, implies—no, it proves that the Government, which bestows such support upon one set of people, those who need it

less than another set, and withholds it from another set, those who need it more than the set upon which the support is bestowed—it proves that such a Government is not a Government of, by and for the people; that it is a Government of, by and for the capitalist; in short, that it is Class Government.

“A free field and no favor,” a “square deal”—these are mottoes that capitalism satisfies {stultifies?}; they are mottoes that await their realization when capitalist society shall have been overthrown; when the Socialist Republic shall have been reared. Then and only then will the field be free without favor; then and only then can the deal be square.

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Uploaded September 2010

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