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EDITORIAL

WELL FOR MAYOR GAYNOR.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ONE month after the inauguration of Mayor Gaynor the *Daily People* took occasion to applaud him in the name of Socialism for the integrity with which he upheld the bourgeois virtues without which social progress is hampered; now, ten months later, when the Mayor boldly tears the mask from the Express Companies' faces by plumply proclaiming the fact that lack of police protection prevents them from performing their duties, whereas the truth in the matter is that the strike has left them without employes, and when he takes a firm stand compelling the Companies to obey the law in the matter of licenses for their strike-breaking drivers—now we repeat the plaudits of ten months ago a tenfold.

Again we say—

Socialism, not being Anarchy, is planted upon social revolution {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 to-day, 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.

These are the virtues of capitalism. These virtues are dear to Socialism—they are the tunnelled road to the Socialist Republic. That tunnelled road is kept incumbered in State and Nation by Anarchy clad in capitalist robes. In this city in particular the tunnelled road has been cumbered by governmental rowdyism, the

“unwashed” rowdyism of a Tammany alternating with the equal rowdyism of an element that is typified in a Seth Low. Under such conditions social evolution is hampered.

As ten months ago the *Daily People* repeats with increased emphasis that, seeing the organized Socialist Movement was still so far from ripe as not to have the slightest chance of taking possession of the City Hall in the Mayoralty struggle of 1909, it was a bit of good luck that the clash of interests among the bourgeois last November resulted in the triumph of Mayor Gaynor. By the light of later events the *Daily People* now adds its regret that Mayor Gaynor did not this year see his way clear to accept the gubernatorial nomination thereby insuring the extension of bourgeois governmental integrity over the whole State; and the *Daily People* devoutly hopes that two years hence the Mayor will head and rout the Anarchist presidential tickets of his bourgeois competitors.

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 again applauds the integrity with which the Mayor is upholding capitalist virtues, without which we all would tumble back into the rough-and-tumble of the Dark Ages.¹

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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¹ [This is a remarkable editorial for what it says about a certain class of politician and a Socialist's attitude towards them—yet there's a hole in the bottom of the bucket.—*R.B.*, Sept. 11, 2011]