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EDITORIAL

## THE RAMPANT JEROME AND HIS WORK!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**J**EROME<sup>1</sup> has spoken, and in speaking he has rent a good many false beliefs, assiduously cultivated by the capitalist class; and, in so doing, has given point and emphasis to Socialist Labor Party argument and contention. Provoked to excitement by a man who questioned his statements on labor, Jerome, irascible and brutal, blurted out feelings which showed the enmity existing between capital and labor, and that, too, in a house devoted to the promotion of Christian brotherhood, thus showing that there can be no brotherhood, even in such a house, when there are conflicting class interests in society. Continuing with the same irascibility and brutality, Jerome exposed the demagoguery of the “labor” leader, his deceit, arrogance, servility and corruption, thus making clear that the capitalist class regards these men as tools to be despised and of no consequence, only when used in the interest of their class, a contention that the Socialist Labor Party has all along insisted upon. Finally, Jerome, still warm from the provocation mentioned, still irascible and brutal, warned the workingmen against aggressions upon capital, predicting the destruction of their political liberties as a result, a possibility against which the Socialist Labor Party warned the working class long ago, a possibility which it foresaw in the various disenfranchisement acts passed by legislators both North and South.

The American working class should not lightly dismiss Jerome’s utterances. They are the outpourings of conditions and sentiments that are bound to burst forth most unexpectedly with volcanic violence. They are the reflex, as are many other notable utterances and incidents of recent date, of a society in which conflicting class interests exist. They are the reflex of a system that can only be removed by changing the basis of

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<sup>1</sup> [WILLIAM TRAVERS JEROME (1859–1934), reform politician and District Attorney for New York County (Manhattan), 1901–1909.]

society from the private to the social ownership of capital, in the orderly, evolutionary manner advocated by the Socialist Labor Party. Workingmen, learn this lesson before it is too late!

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