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EDITORIAL

## THE CLASS STRUGGLE.

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**F**ROM reports coming to Party headquarters, it is clear that the ringing message of the Socialist Labor Party is receiving close and sympathetic hearing by the workers. It can not be otherwise with a movement that bases itself unqualifiedly upon the class struggle.

The experiences of those who are carrying on the S.L.P. propaganda shows that the American workingman is not the physical, mental and moral pollywog that some so-called Socialist theorizers would have us believe.

The American workingman is not halted by the fear that Socialism is “too radical”; on the contrary, he is held back from Socialism by those who, in its name, put forth “reform” demands as Socialism; demands differing in no way from the demands of much bigger parties. The workingman reasons that if such demands constitute Socialism in one place, they do in the other, and so reasoning he casts his vote for the quickest realization of what he was told was Socialism,—some “reform” movement.

The principle of the class struggle is pre-eminently a Socialist one. It is well known that only by recognizing the class interests as the root from which social conflicts arise that correct tactics can follow. The workingman who is not enlightened by the principle of the class struggle will fly into the arms of the capitalist politicians who hold forth promises to redress his wrongs. Enlightened, however, on the class struggle, the workingman is aware that no “reform” could possibly make things better; he knows that the “reformer” is the upholder of a system under which he is borne down; then instead of voting, to his own undoing, against a capitalist faction, he votes against the capitalist class, and thereby against the system.

To keep men, engaged in social conflicts, in the dark on the class struggle, is to

keep them in the dark as to the way out, and cause them to be food for cannon for every reformer that comes along.

Those who would “Americanize” Socialism, really mean thereby that they would make it palatable to the middle class “trust busting” vote, through which they hope to land in office. When they intimate that Socialism is “too radical” for American workingmen they simply use the fair name of America as a cloak to conceal ignorance, or a mask behind which to cover their cowardice.

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