

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 4, NO. 99.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

DISGRACING UNIONISM.

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THE Waterbury, Ct., town election should serve as a signpost of what is in store for Labor, together with its economic organization, Unionism, when the one and the other are planted upon and inspired by the absurdity of pure and simpledom—to say nothing of the corruption that that breeds. At the previous town election, “Labor” came off with flying colors, to-day “Labor’s” colors are in the mire. Waterbury has known no such landslide. A ticket pronouncedly anti-Union was set up by the Republican party, and the point was underscored by the candidate that headed the ticket. The Republican candidate for Mayor, John P. Elton, is a typical limb of the labor-fleecing capitalist class. As secretary and treasurer of the American Brass Company, he clearly denotes the source of his living—the substance of the working class; as the owner of a racing yawl and member of all the leading clubs of his State, he as clearly tells the magnitude of the chunks of wealth that he fleeces the workingman of. His majority is unprecedented in Waterbury—in Waterbury, an industrial town. Whence this Black Crook transformation?

With the exception of a few Socialist Labor Party men, the Labor world of Waterbury is pure and simple. As such it preaches the brotherhood of Capital and Labor; it upholds the “rights of the capitalist class”; it is a pillar of the capitalist system of production. It goes without saying that the economic laws of capitalism mock at folly. Wages go down; ill treatment increases; the conditions of Labor wax worse. And then?—Why, disorder; the disorder of the pure and simple strike follows. At such times organized Labor is placed before the public with its foot in its own mouth. It upholds capitalism, and yet rears at the inevitable results of capitalism. On election day it votes capitalism in, and subsequently it riots against the consequences of its own act. The opportunity the country affords for a peaceful

revolution it neglects, and then it turns around and convulses the community, not even with the object in view of bringing about permanent order, but with the object in view of perpetuating the disorder of capitalism. Industrial Waterbury gave "Labor" and "Unionism" a chance at the last election. What followed, much to the glee of the capitalist class, disgusted nine-tenths of the population. The result was last Tuesday's election, when the bulk of the working class, overthrew pure and simpledom from office, and did what the working class will ever do, so long as the blinkers are kept on its eyes preventing it to see its way to emancipation, flee for asylum to the order of capitalism and away from the disorder of pure and simple Unionism.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded January 2007