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EDITORIAL

ANARCHISTS IN THOUGHT AND ACT.

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TAKEN as a dictionary word, anarchy means confusion; taken as a concrete term, anarchy means riot, brutality and crime. In both these senses the Republican and Democratic parties are approving themselves anarchists of deepest dye, and they are doing so through their own chosen mouthpieces and the candidates they have set up in this year's elections throughout the country.

There is Mark Hanna in Ohio for one. Though not a candidate himself, he is struggling to make sure his seat in the Senate. And there is Tom Johnson, the Democratic candidate for Governor. Do these gentlemen appeal to the intelligence of the audiences they address? To watch them one must take them for fishermen, rendering the waters muddy to help them catch fish—their opinion of the voters. They are intent at creating confusion. They strain at rendering the voters so muddled up that they can not think. What is it Hanna says of Johnson: “He is a Socialist!” And what is it Johnson says of Hanna: “He is a Socialist!”

Both Hanna and Johnson know they are uttering a deliberate falsehood. Hanna, Johnson knows, is as much a Socialist as the Bourbon Breckenridge was an Abolitionist; and Johnson, Hanna knows, is as much a Socialist as the Copperhead Douglas was an Emancipationist. Both Hanna and Johnson, together with the class they represent are vampires on the flanks of the working class, and the volumes of dust they raise against one another must choke the intellect of their hearers. In the dictionary sense of the word the one and the other is an anarchist; confusion is his aim.

Is it otherwise with Low and McClellan in this city, the political spokesmen of the Republican and Democratic parties? What is it they are saying of each other? In this instance, neither calls the other names: they reserve their denunciations for their respective organizations. McClellan denounces the Republican party as

“incompatible with democratic government,” and Low denounces Tammany Hall as “incompatible with democratic institutions!”

In Ohio the leading contestants lie outright. In New York they are lying, too, but, oddly enough, their lies lie in the very truth of what they say! It is undeniable that the Republican party is incompatible with democratic institutions. Democratic institutions can be upheld only by popular equality of enforceable rights. The Republican party wrenches from the overwhelming majority of the people the power to enforce the rights that it hypocritically pronounces theirs. As an upholder of capitalism, the Republican party is an upholder of wage slavery. What wage slavery means has been well explained in the utterance that, under it, “the politically sovereign workingman can at the will of the capitalist employer be thrown upon the street, workless and breadless.” The Republican party is abhorrent to every informed person of democratic instincts. But just for that very reason is the so-called Democratic party, with its New York Tammany manifestation, as repulsive to democracy and as incompatible with democratic institutions. A twin sister of the Republican party, the Democratic party stands essentially for all that which the Republican party represents. The only difference between them is the difference in persons. The only difference is that each set of persons wishes to appropriate for itself the whole of the hide of the working class. What else but anarchists, in the sense of confusionists, are these two parties? And when it is remembered that the plunder of the working class can not be prosecuted without riot, brutality and crime by the plunderers; when that is remembered, and when the numerous, aye, the constant instances are brought to mind of capitalist riot, brutality and crime in plundering the working class, what else but anarchist organizations are both the Republican and Democratic parties in act as well as thought?

Away with both! Let them be smashed by the Arm and Hammer blow of the Socialist Labor Party ballot! Let the blow, given them both next November 3, resound throughout the country!

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