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EDITORIAL

A BRYAN SLOGAN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MR. Bryan may be able to control the Democratic national convention. He may also fail to. And if he fail, he may bolt, or he may not. All the same, whichever way things may go as to that, it is quite sure that the Bryan slogans will figure conspicuously in this coming presidential campaign. Indeed, Mr. Bryan has already started in to grind out these. One of these slogans, the most loudly announced is that against the “money-changers.” Mr. Bryan asks, Shall the money-changers rule the United States? The words have a biblical ring. They are meant to. Indeed, Mr. Bryan does not leave the people to conjecture. He explains how the money-changers were treated on a certain occasion by Jesus. Experience teaches that when Mr. Bryan makes a historic allusion, it is not always safe to accept it as correct. Inquiry shows this instance to be no exception. Inquiry into the Bible does, however, in this instance do more, a deal more than merely rectify Mr. Bryan.

The gospel, according to St. John, Chapter II., verses 14–16 tell the story in this wise:

“And [Jesus] found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

“And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables;

“And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house a house of merchandise.”

Obviously, Mr. Bryan has been misquoting. We say obviously because Mr. Bryan, the apostle of the farmer—of the oxen and sheep and doves selling element—seems to have no objection to the United States being ruled by one set of

the sets that Jesus whipped out of the temple.

Whatever may be said of the money-changer, he is no worse than any other private trafficker—at least none can make him out worse on the authority of Jesus, who, if anything, appears from the above to have swung his scourge of small cords harder on the backs of the sellers of the oxen and sheep and doves than on the backs of the money-changers. At any rate, while the warning, Make not my Father's house a house of merchandise, may legitimately be construed as applying to the money-changers as well, it happened to be addressed to the sellers of doves—and they, and through them, the whole pack of traffickers are certainly included, nor can they get off!

Mr. Bryan, accordingly, is as shaky on his Bible as on his economics, and he interprets Bible morality as selfishly true to his selfish class and falsely in reason as he did eight years ago the science of finance. If the biblical passage means anything it scourges traffic for PROFIT, and it justly places on a par him who changes money and him who draws unearned increment by the sale of any other merchandise.

This earth, the Father's temple, is and will continue to be ruled, that is desecrated, by the class that Jesus scourged, until the capitalist system—whether of Bryan-daddies, or the Hanna variety,—is overthrown by the Socialist System, that is, the only system where, production being conducted for use, and not for sale and cheating, merchandise will cease to be.

In that direction the Socialists of the land will cast their votes for President next November 8—and that will be dead against Mr. Bryan and all that he practically stands for.

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

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slpns@igc.org