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EDITORIAL

A SAMPLE OF “SANITY.”

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WHEN defeated in argument and confuted with facts, the visionary adversary of the Socialist Labor Party usually flees for asylum behind the charge that the S.L.P. consists of “insane fanatics.” The *Miners’ Magazine* of the 17th instant furnishes a timely illustration of the “sanity,” and what is meant thereby, of the S.L.P. opponents.

The *Miners’ Magazine*, we are credibly informed, is in {the} charge of a board, most of whose members are “Socialist Party” men. That party had a full ticket in the State of Colorado, nevertheless, the *Magazine* boomed the Democratic candidate for Governor on the plea that the very first thing needed was to rid the State of Peabody; and now that it seems Peabody is defeated, the *Magazine* is not only exultant, as over a positive victory, but seeks to justify its election course. It does so in this “sane” manner:

“We have received some criticism because the pages of the *Magazine* did not blaze with editorial appeals to the laboring men and women, to rally to the support of the Socialist party of the State of Colorado.”

Now, mark the why of the wherefore:

“It is idle and useless to ask men and women to support the doctrines promulgated by the Socialist party, until they understand thoroughly what Socialism means.”

In other words, because the workingmen and women do not yet possess a thorough understanding of what Socialism means, the way to teach them is to mix them all up. Fundamental with Socialism is the principle of the class struggle. In America, the capitalist class does its utmost to blur the lines between it and the working class. The blurring is necessary in order to keep the workers divided and

food for capitalist cannon. The fact of the irreconcilable class interests between the worker and the capitalist exploiter, is the very alphabet of Socialism, and no opportunity is there more favorable for teaching the fact than the elections—a period in our capitalist land that is the most dangerous for the ruling plunderers, and that may not long exist. While this period still exists the capitalist class is periodically weak as soft-shell crabs. The only scheme available to the capitalist class, in order to come safely out of this danger-period, is to raise “immediate” issues, issues of “grave importance,” that the workers are made to believe they must first decide—then, then they may proceed with Socialism. The capitalist class may be counted upon as sure to furnish such “issues” unto all eternity. In Colorado, it was Peabody this year; in New York it was Flower twelve years ago; in Chicago it was Gerry at one time; in Massachusetts it was Bates;—and so forth. Never will the day come when some “imperative, first issue” will not be thus forced upon the attention of the unsophisticated workers. If to allow oneself to be hoodwinked is “sanity,” then, decidedly, the country needs the largest dose possible of “fanatic insanity.”

We were once told that the S.L.P. taught “too high a science,” that the workers could not yet “digest beefsteak and had to be furnished weak milk,” and more of such chunks of “sanity.” The S.P. was gotten up to furnish the more easily digestive stuff to the Labor Kindergarten. And what meets our eyes and startled ears now? Why, the confession, as clearly implied by the S.P.-conducted *Miners’ Magazine*, that even the S.P. is too strong a decoction—whereupon resort is had to the old, the hoary-headed Gompers style of fighting capitalism by knocking down one capitalist brigand through a process that sets up another of the same kidney and, worst of all, prolongs the workers’ superstition in their own weakness and their plunderers’ usefulness!

Away with the narcotic twaddle of “sanity”! The times call for “fanatic insanity.”

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

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