

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 136.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1904.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

TAFT-BELL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“O F all amusements of the mind”, says the poet, “from logic down to fishing, there’s not one that you can find so very cheap as wishing”. Poets are not supposed to be expert scientists on sociology. But their intuition takes the place of positive knowledge. Positive knowledge teaches that usurping classes run a course that is not dictated by but to them. That course runs along a track obedient to the law of class evolution; and usurping class evolution, like the evolution of putrid matter in a body, must, is bound to come to a head—and end the evil. Wishes have nothing to do with the case. The particles of putridity may “wish” all they like, they are driven by the law of their existence; and that law is to send “self-restraint” to the dogs. “Self-restraint” is the last thing that the social evolution of usurping classes heeds. And well it is ’tis so.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found, under the caption “Documents for Future History”,¹ two despatches. The first is headed “Taft’s Theory”, the second “Bell’s Practice”. The first reports the wishes of Secretary of War Taft. Having read the election returns that give the Capitalist Class full, unprecedented swing and power in the country, the wisher Taft expresses the hope that the victor may exercise “self-restraint”, and he admonishes that a contrary policy will make certain the “danger of a political change”. The second despatch reports the utterances of Lieutenant-General Sherman Bell, the lieutenant-general of Roosevelt and Rooseveltism, of triumphant Capitalism, in short. The gentleman, encouraged by the election returns, takes it upon himself to be judge, jury and executioner. He pronounces Socialism a co-partnership of crime. He invokes the judicial murders of Chicago, proved to have been murders by the highest authority of the day in Illinois, as

¹ [See page three, below.]

worthy of imitation; he favors an improvement thereon; he favors a wholesale massacre, and the victims, too numerous to be interred on earth, are to be “buried in the Gulf of Mexico”; finally he gloats at the prospect of “one long funeral procession” and he invites “all the good citizens” (such as he, of course, being the judges of what constitutes a “good citizen”) to avail themselves of the “glad opportunity” and join the picnic.

Taft’s “wishes” are cheap; they will prove idle; Bell’s practice will—be realized?

The Working Class of America, tutored by the Socialist Labor Party, will have a word to say on that.

DOCUMENTS FOR FUTURE HISTORY

I. TAFT'S THEORY.

Washington, Nov. 9.—The following statement was made by Secretary of War Taft to-day:

“Of course I am very gratified with the result, as every member of the Administration of President Roosevelt must be in this emphatic and exceptional popular approval of him and his character and his course, but the sweeping nature of the victory, evidencing as it does the confidence of the American people in the purposes and future acts of the Republican Administration, does not in the slightest degree diminish the responsibility of those charged with the power and duty of carrying on the Government, or diminish in any way the care with which the public interests must be protected.

“The danger in the case of such a victory is that it may lead to a relaxing of the self-restraint that is more certain to be exercised when the danger of a political change is more probable. It is no unheard of thing to have a majority as large and sweeping as this followed by a defeat equally emphatic at the next Presidential election, and it should be, as I have no doubt it will be, the aim, both of the Administration and of the Republican majority in the legislative branch of the Government so to shape the policies to be pursued as to continue to deserve the approval of the

country in subsequent elections.”

II. BELL'S PRACTICE.

Denver, No. 10.—General Sherman Bell to-day issued a manifesto in which he classes Moyer, Haywood and the Western Federation of Miners as “anarchists and socialists, their professions being dynamite, law, politics and newspaper, a co-partnership of crime in all these professions, with Thomas M. Patterson, W.D. Haywood, Charles Moyer, Charles S. Thomas, Richardson, Thomas J. Hughes, H.M. Teller and Alva Adams, who pose as brigadier-generals and senators of the socialist army of insurgents, upholding and descending to such crimes as the Vindicator and Independence depot explosions.”

General Bell adds: “If these people were tried, found guilty and hung in accordance with the Chicago affair, they would have to be buried in the Gulf of Mexico in order to have one long funeral procession from Colorado to the Gulf.

“All the good citizens of Colorado who would be glad of the opportunity to participate and join the procession of them all individually and collectively, to the end there would be no more remembrance among men, women and children of such vile and villainous wretches.”

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

Uploaded August 2007

slpns@slp.org