

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 7, NO. 207.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1907.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE CASE OF BAILEY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Socialist wastes no tears upon the capitalist victims of capitalism. That barren pastime is left to sentimentalists. The tears that the Socialist has can be better spent upon the myriad proletarian victims of the buccaneer capitalist class. Not to improve the condition of the capitalist and his candleholders,



Joseph Weldon Bailey
(1862-1929)

but to emancipate the Working Class is the mission of Socialism. Accordingly, for Bailey, the disgraced Senator from Texas, now morally convicted at the bar of the Nation of having prostituted himself for a mess of pottage to the Standard Oil monopoly, Socialism has no concern. No more comes to him than he deserves; pity only that identical facts, surely in existence, have not yet come to light, and hurled all the rest of the capitalist pack of politicians deep down the fathomless pit of ignominy where they belong. And yet the “Case of Bailey” may not be thus brushed aside.

Senator Bailey of Texas is a vessel in which Nature, Study and Art deposited extraordinary qualities. Whether his speeches in Congress, formerly in the House of Representatives or now in the Senate, are read from the view point of elegance of diction, fervidness of eloquence, broadness of grasp, keenness of penetration, profoundness of juridic attainment, or straightforwardness of aggressiveness—whatever the side from which the man’s intellectual parts be contemplated, these take easily first rank among his fellow legislators, and are excelled by none of the public men now alive. These great gifts that could have blessed the race were turned awry—by what? These priceless jewels of the intellect now lie mired in the

gutter—through what? By and through the imperious exigencies of his surroundings—by and through CAPITALIST SOCIETY.

Not Bailey the man, but the intellectual gifts of which Bailey was the depository does Socialist mourn over. Capitalist society murders not the body only; it murders the mind besides. The deep philosophy of the Biblical passage that promises pardon for all manner of sin, but eternal punishment for the sin against the “Holy Ghost,” can have no meaning other than to point out the deep damnation of the abandonment by man of his own IDEALS, and his offending against these by bending the knee to baser purpose. The IDEALS deposited in a Bailey were of the loftiest; capitalism made him untrue to them. Infamous as the man himself is, the real culprit at the bar of human conscience is, not the man, the instrument, but the social system which wielded the instrument, and tore down the IDEAL from the temple in which it was raised.

“Morality!”—is that the invocation of Capitalism? There is no Morality possible where material wellbeing is in perpetual danger. IMMORALITY—that is the breath in the nostrils of Capitalism—that is that which it breeds, and upon which it feeds.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded August 2009

slpns@slp.org