

EDITORIAL

HE WILL RUE THE DAY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THEODORE A. BELL, an eloquent spokesman at the Denver national convention of the Democratic wing of capitalism, that nominated Bryan for President, uttered a number of pithy statements. Of them none was so pithy as that **the cry of confiscation is the historic defense of usurpation.**

Volumes of historic fact and on the philosophy of history are condensed in that short, pithy, true sentence.

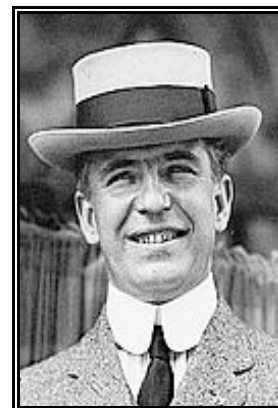
“Confiscation!” cried the Roman patricians, who had robbed the Roman people of their “common acre,” when Tiberius and Caius Gracchus condemned the process and sought to restore to the plundered a portion of their plundered inheritance.—“Confiscation.”

“Confiscation!” cried the Pharisees and their Caiaphases when the Nazarene brought home to them their criminal and usurpatory conduct; when he pilloried the rich; when he anathematized their process of devouring the working poor.—“Confiscation!”

“Confiscation!” cried the purse-proud bourgeois nobility of the Italian principalities when the noble priest, Savonarola, mouthed the protest of the masses against the plunder of the rich who were betraying the country.—“Confiscation!”

“Confiscation!” cried the landowners of Germany when the demands of the peasants that he who works should own the soil and the crops crystallized in the great Peasants’ War.—“Confiscation!”

“Confiscation!” cried the feudal cavaliers of England when the storm of popular indignation rose over the head of Charles I. at the arbitrary course of royal-feudal taxation, that stuck its hands at will into the peoples’ pockets, and took therefrom what it wished.—“Confiscation!”



Theodore A. Bell
(1872–1922)

“Confiscation!” cried the British Crown and Parliament when the American colonists resolved this country was and of right ought to be free, thereby wrenching from the grip of the usurpers the fair estate of this country which Crown and Parliament were treating like their private back-yard.—“Confiscation!”

“Confiscation!” cried the feudal lords of the French régime, who had stolen the land from the Gauls whom they turned into serfs, and, for a thousand and aught years, had treated like cattle—“Confiscation!” they cried when the thunderclap of the French Revolution crashed over their heads.

“Confiscation!” cry, in this generation, the members of the Czar’s Black Hundred at the motto of the land’s peasantry—**Whose the sweat, his the land.**

“Confiscation!” cry to-day the “vested interests” in the United States in answer to the well aimed shot of the American Labor or Socialist Movement, aimed at the system of plunder named capitalism.

Just now the near-sighted Democratic, or Bryan, wing of capitalism finds its account in stealing the thunder of the Social Revolution. The day is at hand when Theodore A. Bell will rue his having uttered, and his party’s convention its having loudly applauded, the true statement that **the cry of confiscation is the historic defense of usurpation.**

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

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