

EDITORIAL

AN ARSENAL FOR SOCIALISTS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE hour of trial is the hour that wrings the truth out of the human breast, how closely locked soever the human breast before kept the secret locked. There is another proverb applicable to the case—when thieves fall out honest folks come by their own.

If Socialists should ever feel at a loss for proofs of their claim that capitalism is robbery, and that, consequently, capitalist property is theft; if Socialists should ever feel at a loss for proofs of their claim that the capitalist class is an aggregation of lawbreakers even towards one another, let alone towards the working class;—let them dive into the speeches made in Congress this month when the tariff bill, as it emerged from Conference Committee, came up for final passage.

In the Senate, Daniel of Virginia addressed the President of that body in these words:

“That paper [referring to the tariff bill] that lies on your table, sir, and purports to be a report of the conferees of the Senate is a bogus paper. It has no more validity in the sight of the laws of the land than any counterfeit note that is floating around to find some greenhorn’s pocket.”

That bogus paper and counterfeit note became “law.”

Thereupon, taking their cue from the bouquets thrown at the law by the legislators themselves, the press have acclaimed the bogus and counterfeit with a shower of fresh bouquets, from among which the following are a few, only a few, of the most fragrant flowers:

“The new tariff bill is scientific thievery.”

“This tariff bill contains too many of those iniquitous bargains, struck in the dark, which have come to make protection synonymous with fraud.”

“The Dingley law put a premium on tuberculosis, in the shape of

highly taxed wool and woollens, and it is left untouched in the present bill.”

“The right persons went to Washington to ‘see’ Aldrich, and came away openly boasting that the thing had been ‘fixed.’”

“It is the old scheme of plunder in full vigor.”

Peter, thou hast said it.

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

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