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EDITORIAL

ENTER TAFT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

OUT goes Roosevelt, in goes Taft; and, then, out will go Taft, and in some other ditto.

How long?

Since the inauguration of McKinley in 1897, the McKinleys, and Roosevelts, and Tafts have been but the alternate left and right foot of a Nation “marking time.”

Capitalist Society has fulfilled its mission. Before it production was not, could not be ample enough to furnish leisure to all. This is another way of saying that, before then, real freedom was impossible. The mission of Capitalist Society was to furnish the material groundwork for human freedom. This mission Capitalist Society has fulfilled. It organized production in such wise that to-day abundance for all without arduous toil is a potential fact. The fulfillment of the mission implies a social, the Socialist Revolution. It implies the overthrow of the political State and its substitution with the Industrial, under which alone the conquests of the human race, made in the shell of Capitalist Society, can pass from the potential to the actual stage of benefit.

The shell of Capitalist Society lingers on the social stage. It will not itself cast itself off. No shell, whether biologic or sociologic, ever does. It has to be pecked through, broken up, and cast off by the chick that it has hatched.

The chick of the Industrial or Socialist Republic, while full grown economically, is yet undeveloped organically. As yet the Industrial organization is in its embryo. Not yet has it reached the minimum of consistency to enable it to forego the warmth of the mother hen’s down; to “grub” for itself; in short, to entitle it to take possession.

While awaiting the ripeness of this development through the united political and economic organization and drill of the Proletariat, Capitalist Society is now

“marking time” on the quadrennial March Fourths. Of course Capitalist Society imagines it is for and of all time, and that these ceremonies are confirmations of its title. But what it imagines does not alter facts. These ceremonies are just the reverse of what Capitalist Society imagines. It has no inkling of the fact that its recurring Presidential Inaugurations are but a “marking of time.” Yet that is all they are—

McKinley left,
Roosevelt right,
Taft left,

and so, until the productive and useful services-rendering Nation, finally organized industrially, shall issue the WORD OF ORDER.

Then will the shell be cast off. Then will the social stage be freed from capitalist rule—the last of the long dynasty of Class Rule. Then will the Socialist or Industrial Republic seize the reins of government and usher in the era of human freedom, each, indeed, the architect of his social fate.

Until then—left, right, left—out will go one, in another, “marking time.”

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