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EDITORIAL

“THE WARRING SECTS OF SOCIALISM.”

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IN the conflict of Socialism with Capitalism the latter seeks to destroy the influence of the former by a constant reference to its “warring sects.”

Such a course only reflects the stupidity of Capitalism. It shows that, despite its “warring sects,” Socialism is strong enough to put Capitalism on the defensive in a fight for life. It also reflects capitalist stupidity in that it would create the impression that Capitalism is a unit and therefore perfect and worthy of support.

No workingman possessed of an iota of observation and intelligence will be so impressed. Everyday events prove that in capitalist political parties there are “warring sects,” made so by the conflict of capitalist interests. In the Republican party there are the “Iowa idea” advocates, the believers in reciprocity and the old school protectionists, in disputatious warfare over the tariff. The publicity and the anti-publicity men are wrangling over the trusts; while the party is not entirely harmonious on the issues of gold and imperialism. In the Democratic party, there is a division between the free silverites and the gold Democrats, and the trust wing and the so-called radical element on the questions affecting “the public ownership of public utilities.” In both parties there are divisions and a struggle for supremacy between “warring sects.”

Though this is a fact, it will not, however, have escaped the intelligent workingman that in both these political parties certain interests dominate these “warring sects.” In the Republican party it is the interests of the financial and industrial plutocrats that dominate and make that party a party for the promotion of the interests of the plutocratic class as against the interests of all other classes. In the Democratic party it is the interests of the farming and middle class that dominate. In both parties the “warring sects” uphold interests that are easily distinguished as capitalistic, either of a revolutionary or reactionary type.

And so it is with the "warring sects" of Socialism. Socialism has also, despite its varying divisions, its dominant interests, viz., the interests of the great working class. These interests demand the social ownership of capital in accordance with the philosophy of the class struggle. They demand the emancipation of the working class by the working class. These demands are the antithesis of those of the capitalist parties which make the welfare of the working class dependent on the plutocratic and middle classes. They are expanding in force and influence, combating compromise and clarifying working class thought and action, as the capitalist cry of "warring sects" too well shows. They will eventually become supreme!

On then with the conflict of Socialism with Capitalism. Let no cry of "warring sects of Socialism" deter us until the warring sects of Capitalism have been dethroned.

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