EDITORIAL

A JONAH TO NINEVEHITES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

In the course of his argument, urging the advisability of raising the rates on large incomes, Senator La Follette addressed on last August 27 words to his colleagues in the Senate that recall the efforts of Jonah to the Ninevehites. The important passage of the speech will be found elsewhere in this issue.1

Senator La Follette made no exceptions, but sweeping, justly sweeping of all large fortunes was his branding of these heaps of wealth as “mighty fortunes, accumulated largely in violation of law,” and his lashing of the holders of the same as double and habitual parasites who should be “compelled at last to pay the tax they have heretofore evaded.” Nor was the Senator’s estimate of the posture of a swelling majority of the people towards his Republican colleagues less trenchant. “A new day,” said he, “is coming in this country,” and the people “will retire more and more men from the Senate of the type” of those under whose protecting wings Top Capitalism has been holding high carnival.

This is not the first time that mighty truths were told in the Senate. Twenty-three years ago Senator Ingalls of Kansas let himself loose. But Ingalls was a charlatan. None of his colleagues could take him seriously. It is otherwise now. La Follette is a man of different type. He is hated and feared by his colleagues—feared and hated as much as the presence of Jonah was hated and feared by the men of Nineveh that could not discern between their right hand, and their left hand.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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1 [See “La Follette’s Speech,” appended, page 2.—R.B.]
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