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FIRST EDITORIAL

Pickets Under Fire.

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East, West, North and South, the out-of-door propagandists of the party, the party's pickets, who are carrying the message of a gladder day into the ranks of the sorely tried proletariat of the land, and in a hand-to-hand conflict with the out-posts of the capitalist class.

In Oakland, Cal.; in Leadville, Colo.; in Kansas City, Mo.; in Malden, Revere and Boston, Mass;—in all these places the same experience is being made; in them all, under one pretext or another, the police of the capitalist class is busily at work seeking to browbeat the Socialist propagandists into silence, seeking to muzzle free speech, seeking to prevent enlightenment from reaching the masses; and the petty Courts, back of these policemen, are straining every nerve to aid this campaign of Ignorance.

And all this is natural.

The claim of freedom on the lips of the capitalist Government is a lie; its pretense of enlightenment is a swindle; its assumption of the rôle of defender of Law and Order is a farce; its warrant to lead civilization is usurpation. Born in crime, its every step a crime, every stone in the structure of its social system a felony—the capitalist Government has no resource other but the breach of all decorum to seek to prolong its existence. It has to batten on ignorance; and wise it is to seek and perpetuate that. That it has to come to that every Socialist knew; that it has come to that cheers every Socialist heart.

The war is on, nor will the Socialist be the first to cry: "Hold; enough!" He welcomes this evidence of the power of the movement that he pioneers; he hails with joy this sign of the weakness, of the hollowness of the foe he fights; and he falls to with redoubled energies.

To the stalwarts in front, to the men and women on the stump, to these pickets of the Social Revolution, the cheer of the party goes out. They are making history. And the

dawn of the day can be seen when, with mighty swoop, the forces they are now gathering with pain and travail, under the fire of the enemy's out-posts, will come down with the resistless vigor of a glacier, sweep away all obstruction, uproot the capitalist system of brigandage, and rear a social structure where, material well-being being assured, no man need sink to the owl's level of blinking at the Light.

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