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EDITORIAL

WHY, DETHRONE CONSUELO AND ANNA!

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Bryan's Indianapolis, or race course, speech of acceptance is an inexhaustible quarry from which to draw rocks to hit him with.

On the subject of Imperialism he refers eloquently, if verbosity is eloquence, to the sympathy felt and expressed in this country three quarters of a century ago for the weaker nations struggling for independence, and he contrasts the then attitude of our government with the apathy displayed to-day. He denounces the growth of the monarchial idea, but is either too ignorant or too knavish to attack the cause of all this; nay, more, he is either stupidly ignorant or viciously depraved enough to support and defend the cause of the evils he deplors.

It is true that in the days of Clay and Webster the sight of a Republic battling for national integrity against Great Britain would have aroused a storm of fury which would have swept from power any party that dared to even hint at sympathy with the monarchy. And it is also true that the economic conditions of that time produced a working people who could and did own the tools they worked with; who were in consequence free, and whose self-interest and warm sympathies inspired them with a love for their own form of government and a hatred of kingly rule.

The tool was crude as compared to the machine of to-day, but it was OWNED by the worker; beggars were unknown, tramps unheard of, and millionaires so scarce as to be deemed by most of the people as fabulous as the dragon. To-day all this has changed. The tool no longer is owned by the man who uses it, and the changes in our social life, sentiments and political action correspond to that change in ownership. Hence, to-day we have a people, seventy-five per cent. of whom belong to a class which owns nothing but its power to labor with the machines which it does not own; thus enslaved, this proletariat knows nothing of freedom except through tradition. From the rapidly disappearing middle class nothing can be expected, and the six per cent. who own the machines and rule the rest are too busy buying ducal coronets and baronial vices to bother over a republic, more or less.

Only by the working class of America again becoming master over the tool of production will the people become again free enough at home to safeguard freedom abroad.

A nation freed from the incubus of class rule would know how to express its hatred of tyranny in such a way that one such expression would suffice for ages. The ruling class in America have such love for republican institutions as may be witnessed by the eagerness of a Consuelo to acquire a duke and an Anna to capture a count.

Does Bryan attack that root-cause which produces the evils he declaims against and sets Consuelo and Anna on thrones? No. He would recoil with as much horror from the proposition to abolish capitalist ownership of the nation's machinery as McKinley would. In all the changes which have taken place, in all the mutations in our social and political life, only one thing seems to escape the operations of the otherwise universal law of evolution, only one thing which ossifies and remains so, forgetting nothing, learning nothing, understanding nothing—the Democratic party. And Bryan proves himself fit to be its leader in his melancholy harking back to the Days of Clay and Webster.

Republics are to be preserved; monarchs are to be dethroned? Good. We propose that the United States of America be the first Republic preserved, and Consuelo and Anna—with their class—be the first rulers dethroned.

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

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