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EDITORIAL

AT HIS OLD TRADE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Massachusetts advices bring the information that Mayor Chase of Haverhill, whom the workingmen of his city defeated for re-election, will, upon the expiration of his term, become a traveling agent for a leading shoe-manufacturer. The despatch adds that the offer was made to him because of his political connections, which will enable him to “enter a large number of Unions.”

Volumes are said in these few words. A shoe concern that were to depend upon the Unions, for the consumption of its goods, would be bankrupted within a month; all the labor organizations of the land, accessible through the Labor Fakir element, put together do not aggregate three hundred thousand pairs of feet. It is, accordingly, not as a helper in the distribution of goods that Mr. Chase is wanted. He is wanted as a puller-in for capitalists. What is wanted of him by the shoe concern is to pacify the rank and file, pull the wool over its eyes, make it believe that the shoe concern is a fair, a good, a loving employer,—and thereby continue to act as a drag on the Socialist Movement.

In the new occupation that Mayor Chase is to engage there will be nothing new to him; he will be at his old trade; with this difference only that during the two years of his incumbency as Mayor the pay he received for exercising his functions of puller-in for the exploiter class under the cloak of Labor, did not come clearly or directly out of the pockets of the capitalists; it came intermediately out of the City Treasury; whereas now he will be directly in the pay and under the control of a capitalist.

It took barely two years for Mr. Chase’s political fraud upon the workers to be discovered by them in Haverhill, and to be resented. It may not take that long for the rank and file of the Unions to find him out, and shut their doors in his face, whereupon his paymasters will drop him.

It would be a pity, however, if, during the time when the ex-Mayor, “first Socialist (sic) Mayor” in the United States, will continue to ply his old trade of

puller-in for the Capitalist Class, the lesson be lost that is taught by the sight of him.

Cincinnatus, of old, was recalled by his countrymen, who had wronged him. In the hour of their danger, they turned to the sturdy citizen, and he left his plow, once more to buckle on the armor in his country's defence. Mayor Chase, found out by the class whose battles he pretended to fight, is turned out into the cold, but is caught as a "flier" by the class that had him all along in pay, and is given a new, tho' somewhat different, lease of fraudulent life.

Ex-Mayor Chase, the "first Socialist (?) Mayor," at his old trade is a Cincinnatus inverted.

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