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THIRD EDITORIAL

PUCKING SOCIALISM.

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The Bryan-Democrat and liquor dealers' candidate, the "Socialist" Mayor Chase, of Haverhill, has perpetrated a message to which a whole, long article should be devoted, taking up each point made as so many illustrations of the fact that Debs-Democracy, or Social-Democracy Socialism is but a *Puck* caricature of Socialism, as far as its principles are concerned;—as far as its practice is concerned, the fact of its being inherently corrupt, and but a mantle for capitalist chicanery, that the Chase or Haverhill brand has amply demonstrated before, and need not be here rehearsed again. As to the Puckishness of Haverhill's Social Democracy Socialism, let two instances, borrowed from Mr. Chase's inaugural, tell the tale.

Says the gentleman in one place:

Everything is rapidly becoming monopolized. The MIDDLEMEN and the toilers are being driven to penury and want, while the accumulated product of centuries is fast going into the hands of a few, who toil not, neither do they spin.

Consequently Wanamaker, Macy, Ridley, Siegel-Cooper, Marshall Field, and the other large department stores, that dot the land,—all of them being MIDDLEMEN—are being driven into penury and want!!!

The galimatias of Haverhill's *Puck* Socialism proceeds, on the one hand, from its dense ignorance upon what the "middleman" means, and upon the "middleman's" important, necessary rôle in all civilized social systems as the living engine of distribution; and, on the other hand, the galimatias proceeds from the essential middle class instincts of Haverhill's *Puck* Socialism, and the predominant Haverhill middle class' feature of being small retailers (small middlemen).

The "toiler" and the "middleman" cannot be lumped together, the former is a proletarian, the latter is a bourgeois. In the development of capitalism, the toiler,

as a class, sinks ever lower into “penury and want”; just the reverse with the middleman, as a class. Individual middlemen may go down in the competition of capitalists with capitalists,—just the same as with manufacturing capitalists,—but as a class, the middleman sub-division of capitalism, faring just as the manufacturing subdivision of capitalism, grows ever more powerful: the middlemen mammoth concerns of the Wanamakers spring up hand in hand with the Carnegie establishments. To lump the middleman and the toiler together, and then weep over both is to out-*Puck Puck*.

Again, under the head of “Taxation”—a painful subject, be it remembered, for the middle class,—the Haverhill Debs-Democrat “Socialist” Mayor says:

The subject of taxation is a vexing one to all municipalities, and always will be so long as the present system exists. Every growing city is confronted with increasing needs and a corresponding inability to provide for them by tax levy, and A RECOURSE TO BOND ISSUES IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

Bond issues to be an escape from tax levy!?! How are the bonds to be paid for, interest and capital? Hitherto taxation was the only way. But it seems that a brand new style of bonds is now to make its appearance, a bond that is to be redeemed and the interest on which is to be paid without any tax levy.

The thing that spooks in the head of the “Socialist” mayor of Haverhill is again typical of middle class muddleheadedness. Never sensible enough to recognize that the social system, by which they would like to grow into sharks, is reducing them down to minnows for the actual sharks to devour; never intelligent enough to understand that, the middle class ever tightens the rope tighter around its own neck by the very means that it imagines to escape by.

Its goods cannot compete with the large Capitalists, hence its life becomes harder. Does the middle class rise equal to the occasion and help overthrow the existing social system? No! It goes to the banker, raises a loan, and by escaping immediate bankruptcy, it imagines it has escaped for good. Yet not so. What it has done is to strap an added obligation upon its back that will render its collapse more grievous. Unable before to make the two ends meet, now that it has the added burden of interest to pay, it collapses under the Sheriff’s hammer. Just so now with the Haverhill Debs-Democratic “Socialist” Mayor. The class he represents, and whose instincts breathe out of every one of his pores, is ground down by taxation, and that class imagines it can escape taxation by the issuing of bonds, little

stopping to think that presently the whole bond (and its interest right along) will roll back upon it and have to be redeemed by taxes—to the greater glory of the upper or big shark Capitalist class.

The Pucking of Socialism, in which the Haverhill Social or Debs Democrats are engaged, is typical of middle class turpitude. Ever under false colors, ever wielding swords that its nerveless arms are not equal to, that class now spouts some Socialist phrases, but pursues middle class policy and aims.

As the thing is bound to wither sooner or later, and sooner than later, the performances of the Haverhill Debs-Democracy “Socialism” should not pass by unnoticed for instruction and warning, and unappreciated for fun.

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

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