

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 4, NO. 9.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## THAT “SOCIALISTIC” POSTOFFICE.

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**O**F course there is not going to be any investigation of the Postoffice scandals worth the name. Nor is any necessary. The “Socialistic” feature of the institution transpires quite clearly from what is known now. Further, fuller and more frightful details could only be of cumulative value.

What is a Socialist institution? It is a concern that owes its existence to the breath of the abolition of the wages system of slavery. As a result of this a Socialist institution is run for the benefit of the community. Seeing moreover that no terrestrial institution can be run by any other than human agencies, it follows that those who are directly active in operating a concern are themselves members of the community, and consequently must share in the benefit of the Socialist institution the same as all others. There is one more essential feature to a Socialist institution: it is a feature that may be said to sum up all the others: from top to bottom there is democratic equality, despite order; from top to bottom, and radiating in all directions, there is mutual support. How do the facts stand in the Postoffice, as revealed by the present scandals, and as simultaneously revealed among the letter-carriers?

The scandals throw light above. High officials have been found peculating; others have been found stealing; others are using the institution as a clearing house to pay their political debts; and yet others have sunk still deeper, they are paying for their illicit amours with jobs to their paramour’s brothers, parents and **EVEN HUSBAND.**

While this is going on “upstairs,” what is seen “downstairs”? The letter-carriers are ranked under two categories: the first class receive \$1000, the second receive \$850 as the highest possible. Even the wages of the first class are inhumanly low. The employes in such an institution are exploited. Both classes have been trying to

get a raise—the first, to \$1200; the second, to \$1000. In the course of their efforts, the first class has discovered that its chances would be endangered if the second class succeeds; and vice versa the second class: The P.O., being animated by the breath of capitalism, seeks to leave the large profits for the railroad companies and the large salaries for the upper officers: a rise in the wages of the letter-carriers would reduce the revenues of railroads and upper officers: consequently there is little or no inclination to help the letter-carriers: finally, breathing in this spirit, the letter-carriers divide—each of the two classes pulling for itself, and seeking to keep back the other, as the surest means of increasing its own chance!

That is the spectacle that the P.O. is now presenting; a spectacle to be abhorred;—a spectacle that cannot cease until capitalism ceases.

The ground-work of a Socialist institution is the absence of economic classes. Whatever institution is reared on economic classes, whatever its external form may be—as far as Socialism is concerned—, is no better than a whitened sepulchre.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded January 2007