

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 24.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

SIC 'EM TAMMANY!

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is so common a thing to hear the “washed crime” of our city take a fall out of the “unwashed crime” centered in Tammany, that it is refreshing to see the “unwashed crime” turn upon its assailants and show 'em up.

This was done quite well by Acting Mayor Patrick F. McGowan at the opening of the downtown Hudson River tunnels.

The Acting Mayor described graphically the series of holdups that traction facilities were afflicted with in this city. How one company would promptly block the plans of another, and how franchises were kept unused, they being simply kept to be sold at exorbitant prices. The Acting Mayor also mentioned names. They were without exception elite names—names of the “washed crime.”

Making allowance for the oddity of the “indignation” on the part of a representative of the “unwashed crime,” at the “outrageous” conduct of the “washed crime,” it must be admitted that there was a note, not of interested but of honest sincerity in the Acting Mayor’s words.

The “washed crime” of New York consists of a comparatively few and select lot of people. Every successful hold-up executed by these inflates their pockets, with nothing thrown to the “rabble” that helped them but the veriest crumbs. It is otherwise, not entirely otherwise, but considerably otherwise with the “unwashed crime.” When these do their stunts, the divvy extends much further, it sweeps a wider circle. The distance between the chiefs and the rank and file being much smaller, at times unrecognizable, the “ring” can’t grab it all, as done by the “ring” of the “washed crime.” The note in the Acting Mayor’s indignation had this much of sense, hence this much of sincerity in that it amounted to just this:

“Society is a jungle. The Socialists who wish to bring order in the chaos and fraternity in the menagerie are a lot of visionaries. A jungle we were; a jungle we

are; a jungle we shall remain. Nevertheless, the animals in the jungle live. The washed crime of the city want to kill nine-tenths of our jungle's population. This is an outrage. They wish it all for themselves. This is another outrage. We, however, the crime that has not yet enjoyed comforts long enough to wash, we would take in a good many more, and in that way we are the real 'advance agents of prosperity.'"

There is a good deal in this—enough to encourage Tammany to sic 'em!

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

Uploaded September 2010

slpns@slp.org