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EDITORIAL

THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS—SO FAR.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE New York *Evening Post*, leading intellectual mouthpiece of the Plutocracy, sneers at the Socialists for believing “the present to be the worst of all possible worlds.” The sneer is on the *Post*.

Not only do Socialists not believe that the present is the worst of all possible worlds, they, in fact, look upon the present world as the best that has yet been; and—much as the *Post* may wonder at the statement—the Socialist is full of enthusiasm for the present world. Enthusiasm for it? Yes, enthusiasm.

The goal of the Socialist is that Social Order in which the aspirations of all noble minds, since history began to be recorded, shall cease to be an aspiration, and shall become a reality. The aspiration may be condensed in the verification and practice of the command: “Do unto others as you would be done to” as the now oral rule of man’s actions. Such a rule of conduct does not exist to-day. In so far the Socialist opposes, condemns, strives to overthrow the present Social Order, and, without a doubt, will see his striving crowned with successes. For all that the Socialist dotes upon, is actually enthusiastic over the “present world.” And with good reason.

Although the “present world” differs from former ones only in the method of human suffering; although, accordingly, the “present world” is essentially the same as “previous worlds” in that its system is pivoted upon Class Rule; although all this is true, yet, nevertheless, the “present world” differs from all previous ones in one all-important particular—it is the first “world” from which the attainment of the Socialist world is possible. Impossible was the attainment under the patriarchal system; impossible was its attainment under the succeeding, the feudal system. Under neither was as yet the material foundation laid for the rearing of the social structure whose practice could be “Do unto others as you would be done to.” That

material basis is furnished by the “present world,” the world of capitalism. The physical capacity for the plentifulness of production that can afford to all assured physical well being, is the boon bestowed upon mankind by capitalism. Socialism proposes to profit by the boon; the *Post* class proposes the impossible scheme of being allowed to play the role of “dogs in the manger” in perpetuity.

Which is why the Socialist dearly loves the “present world,” and why the *Post* class is the one that should detest it.

Capitalism makes Socialism certain.

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