

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 117.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## TOUGH ON TAFT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**T now being established, not only that John Schrank, the would-be assassin of Col. Roosevelt, is not and never was a Socialist, as so many clerical and lay organs of Capitalism at first recklessly declared, but that he is a Roman Catholic, and vaingloriously proud of his deed, certain recent incidents leap to the mind, and, with them, the thought—Tough on Taft.

Barely six months ago, in the April number of his *Nativity Mentor*, Father John L. Belford of Brooklyn said of and regarding the Socialist: “he is the mad dog of society and should be silenced if need be with a bullet.” The statement was not made in an angry moment, in the heat of a discussion. It was made in print, deliberately written, and published. Nor is that all.

No organization can be held responsible for the private, or even official acts of its members—provided the act is repudiated. The public outrage committed by Father Belford has not been repudiated by his superiors, the Roman Catholic political hierarchy, at least not as publicly as the outrage was public. On the contrary. While the venerable Father Edward McGlynn, was promptly and even rudely removed from St. Stephen’s parish for expressing economic views that were at variance with the material class interests of the Ruling Class, Father Belford continues at his post, unmolested, notwithstanding the views that he expressed affect, not property, but life; and, if hearkened to, would render civilized society impossible.

The other incident that leaps to the mind, and which, together with the first, suggests the thought “Tough on Taft,” is the telegram sent by President Taft, as President of the United States, to the Pope on the recent occasion of his appointment of three Cardinals in the United States, three men picked from among the most conspicuously politically active officials of the Roman Catholic political hierarchy. In that telegram the President thanked the head of the said temporal-political

hierarchy on the express ground that his organization was a power for law, order, peace, etc.

The murderous suggestion of the unrepudiated, the sustained, Father Belford amounts to a suspension, if not to a repeal of the laws of the land. It amounts to more. It amounts to a declaration—made by the said Roman Catholic political hierarchy ambushed behind religion—placing Society in a state of siege, with the adherents of the hierarchy authorized to look upon anyone as “a mad dog” who holds economic and political views that are a menace to the material interests of said political hierarchy, and to silence him with a bullet, if he can not otherwise be silenced.

How much law, order and peace Progress may look for from such a hierarchy may be gathered from Schrank’s putting in practice the political methods recommended by Father Belford. Likewise may be gathered their effect upon Taft’s candidacy

Hence we say: The rattle of the shot fired at the presidential candidate Roosevelt, by one who considers him “a mad dog of society,” as the only way to silence him, is a rattling exhibition of political tactics that will prove tough on Taft.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded March 2014

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)