

Daniel De Leon

Editorial: Ours is the Future

The New York *Evening Post* turns its prodigious intellect upon the “German elections” and regales its stock and bond-holding patrons with this choice tid-bit of reasoning: “It is plain to everybody in Germany, as plain as cause and effect are in politics, that the growth of the Socialists is due to the Army Bill. . . . The Government has gone on for twenty years demanding more men and a more military view of politics. . . . For exactly the same period, the Socialists have been winning more seats at every election, until their strength in the Reichstag has become alarming.”

On the school benches, a certain way of reasoning, peculiar to block-heads, is labeled: *Post hoc, propter hoc*, i.e., a certain thing happened AFTER another, consequently it happened BECAUSE of that other. As well may one say: “The *Evening Post* has been demanding free trade for the last four years; for exactly the same period the Socialist vote in New York grew from 2,000 to 18,000; consequently, Socialism in New York is the result of the *Evening Post's* free trade swindle”; or, “Tammany Hall, through its Hewitts and Gilroys, has been putting reprobates like Fatty Walsh and others into office; during all that period the Niagara has been cutting its way backward; consequently, the course of the Niagara is the result of Tammany’s policy”; or “The McKinley tariff was passed in 1890; after that, cholera appeared in New York; consequently the cholera was a result of the McKinley imbecility”; and so forth, and so on.

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The *Evening Post's* "logic" leaves two phenomena wholly unaccounted for:

1. Without the "cause" of the German military policy, Socialism is making "alarming" strides in France, England, Australia, the United States, etc.

2. Despite the "cause" of the German military policy, and the violent opposition to it on the part of the middle class Herr Richter, his party was annihilated at the last elections.

Having let the gas out of the *Evening Post's* "logic," we shall leave it in the gloom to ruminate over its own gloomy forebodings.

What happens everywhere must have a common cause. Socialism is moving onward throughout the civilized world; the cause therefor must be one common to all civilized countries; that which all civilized countries have in common is the capitalist system of production under which a comparatively small, idle, lazy, immoral, criminal, stupid class, such as the *Evening Post* is the telephone for, sponges up the bulk of the wealth that is produced by the brain and the brawn of the toiling masses. Tired of such exploitation, aroused by the danger to civilization from such a shocking state of things, and enlightened both as to its causes and the way out, the proletariat of the world has unfurled the banner of Socialism, and is marching with precision upon the Government, determined to conquer it, wipe out the rule of exploitation, and rear the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Its ultimate victory is approaching with rapid strides, and with the certainty of doom.

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*A De Leon editorial transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the
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