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EDITORIAL

REVOLUTION! SOCIALISM!! ANARCHY!!! ETC!!!!

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THE conduct of certain capitalists towards President Robbins of the Armour Car Lines, who is being investigated by the Interstate Commerce Commission concerning railroad rebates and other practices of that nature, may yet lead to serious consequences. President Robbins refuses to answer certain questions. In doing so the gentleman merely avails himself of the rights with which he is clothed by the laws of capitalism. Edmund Burke, the talented champion of capitalist society and methods, said: "The laws of commerce (meaning capitalism) are the laws of Nature. The laws of Nature are the laws of God." In short, the laws of Capitalism are the laws of God. And yet, what is this we are seeing? Nothing short of rebellion against the "laws of God," and from what sources! "This plea of impotence and impudence," some capitalist concerns are crying out, "can not be tolerated"! These outcriers go even further, and declare the conduct of the Armours "an iniquitous compact to extort from some shippers the last possible cent, and to favor certain insiders." And the rebels against the "laws of God" even go the length of threatening "redress from Congress." That the heavens do not fall at the sound of such heresy is a matter of wonder. There is hardly a "law of God" that these several outcriers do not blasphemously fly in the face of.

It is one of the "laws of God" that he shall take who can and he shall hold who has the power. Shiftless workingmen, class-against-class-nagging Socialists, pestiferous revolutionists and disrupters of social order claim that such a "law" is the devil's law, "buccaneers log-book" statute, etc.; they make the wild assertion that economic power in the hands of a few enables these to extort from the workingman the wealth that he creates. Fudge! He who is thrifty, clever and industrious can always work himself up to the top of the ladder. This is another

“law of God.” But what will become of the “laws of God” if from among its very high-priests such language begins to go out as that the Armours are “extorting the last possible cent” from them? If the above referred to pack of Socialist workingmen hear such words, are they not likely to gather comfort for their heresy arguing that, if even big capitalists are impotent to prevent extortion from still bigger capitalists, how can the penniless wage-slave brace up against extortion from the big and bigger capitalists combined?

Again, it is a “law of God” that to look to Government for redress is a mark of shiftlessness. Government interference to prevent extortion is paternalism. The “incentive to work,” the “fibre of individuality”—all that would go to the damnation bow-wows. So runs the “law of God”; it is thundered from every pulpit of capital; it is proved by every professional servant at the altars of capitalism. But what will become of that “law of God” if its very high-priests begin to yell “Congress!”? Will not those unspeakable Socialist workingmen prick up their ears and say: “Hark! That ‘law of God’ is a one-sided law. It is meant to be binding upon us only; the other fellows are not bound by it!”?

Things are at sixes and sevens. Old “laws of God” are crumbling. The “pillars of civilization” are caving in. Woe is us—Revolution! Socialism!! Anarchism!!!

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