

EDITORIAL

ANOTHER CLARIONISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE thanks of the Movement are due to the Vancouver, B.C., *Western Clarion* for affording a fresh opportunity to hold the mirror of Pure and Simple Ballotism up to the misshapen face of Pure and Simple Bombism, and, thereby, vice versa, to hold the mirror of Pure and Simple Bombism up to the misshapen face of Pure and Simple Ballotism, and illustrate the identity of the cut of the two respective jibs.

Pure and Simple Bombism asserts that political action is no part of the class struggle. The proof of the assertion is sought in two other assertions, to wit, that the suffrage is “a concession of the bourgeois,” and that the whole power of the capitalist lies in his economic power. Then follows the conclusion: “Once the working class attains that economic power it can enforce obedience to whatever it may see fit to decree.” When the Pure and Simple Bombist is asked: “How will you attain that economic power for the revolutionary act without a political party to preach the revolution and thereby recruit the ranks of your economic organization?” silence ensues, accompanied with the kind of gurgling sound that usually accompanies a solar plexus.

And now comes the *Western Clarion* of Pure and Simple Ballot stripe, and asserts that strikes, boycotts, lockouts, etc., are no part of the class struggle. The proof of this assertion also is sought in two other assertions, to wit, that having sold his power to labor the worker has no claim upon the products of that applied labor-power, and that the whole power of the capitalist lies in his political power. Whereupon follows the conclusion: “Once the working class attains that power it can enforce obedience to whatever it may see fit to decree.” When the Pure and Simple Ballotist is asked: “How will you attain that political power without an economic organization which, by supplying the ballot with its needed physical force

backing, shall ensure your not being counted out?" silence ensues, the silence that follows the dull thud of a knock-out blow.

And thus the two sets of Pure and Simplers, each taking hold of a fractional truth, each, like all fractional holders, the slave of the arrogance and pride that shallowness ever breeds,

His still-refuted quirks he still repeats,
New raised objections with new quibbles meets,
Till, sinking in the quicksand he defends,
He dies disputing and the contest ends.¹

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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¹ [James Fenimore Cooper, *The Pathfinder*.—R.B.]