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EDITORIAL

## TO THE WORKINGMEN OF PITTSBURG.

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**W**HAT is happening now in Messina is but a repetition of an old tradition.

The old story had it that two monsters—Scylla and Charybdis—inhabited the straits, and, between themselves, no mariner escaped. The mariner who steered his path safely from Scylla was engulfed by Charybdis; the mariner who succeeded in escaping Charybdis fell prey to Scylla. That was the ancients' way of accounting for earthquakes and tidal waves.

Are you much, if any, in advance of the ancients?

In Pittsburg also, as in the rest of the land, there is a strait of Messina, through which you are bid to file next election day, flanked on either side by a modern Scylla and a modern Charybdis.

The names have changed, the thing has remained. One monster is named Steel, the other Magee.

The Steel monster sings the song of "respectability." The degree of its "respectability" is the exact gauge of the number of workingmen, workingwomen and working children that it has devoured. It is fat, and sleek, and ruddy, and "clean." Its fatness accounts for the hollow leanness of proletarian cheeks; its sleekness accounts for the haggardness of proletarian limbs; its ruddiness accounts for the pallor of proletarian countenances; its "cleanness" accounts for the squalor which is left the proletariat to live in. Every boast the Steel monster makes of "decency" is grafted upon a crime perpetrated upon the working class. The siren song of the Steel monster amounts to a song of praise for successful social deviltry. The couplets of that song only ring the changes on the virtues that produce the Harry Kendall Thaws as the choice and top-most pimple-flower on the brow of the monster Steel.

The Magee monster sings the siren song of “democracy.” Its degree of “democracy” is the exact gauge of the depth of its desire to emulate the monster Steel. The Magee monster is rather haggard, and hungry and thirsty—not through unrequited toil the fruit whereof was plundered from it. It is haggard, and hungry and thirsty because it has not had its hands in the workers’ pockets, nor its suckers in the workers’ blood veins to the extent of the monster Steel. The Magee monster aims at the same thing as the monster Steel but via a different road, the road of politics. It “democratically” demands a huge share of the plunder which the monster Steel wishes to keep all to itself.

Between these two you are urged to file. Steer clear of the Magee monster and you will be turned to juicy mutton chops by the Steel monster; escape the Steel monster and you will land in the maw of the monster Magee.

Hatred for the one accompanied by love for the other spells in the end the same—YOUR UNDOING.

There is no escaping either by rushing into the arms of ’tother. Neither can be escaped without giving a wide berth to both by hitting both over the head.

The mariners of old labored under a disadvantage that you, workingmen of Pittsburg, do not labor under.

Scylla never told tales on Charybdis, Charybdis never talked out of school about Scylla. The mariner of those days might be excused if he knew no better. You are warned. The warners are your modern Scylla and Charybdis, the Steel and the Magee monsters themselves.

Loudly does the monster Steel hurl its accusations against the Magee monster. Through every scale of its Trust mail it howls “political corruption!” The charge, but too true, is an electric light that exposes both the charger and the charged. There can be no bribe-taking politician without there is a bribe-giving capitalist. Briber and bribee—what’s the odds?

The straits of Messina, flanked by Scylla and Charybdis, were not the only path through which to reach one sea from the other. Neither are the straits flanked by the Steel and Magee monsters the only route to travel from the seething volcano-tossed sea of capitalism in Pittsburg.

Vote the ticket of the Socialist Labor Party—outflank thereby the Steel-Magee

straits of disaster.

A vote for the Socialist Labor Party is the only vote that strikes both monsters. It is the only vote because that vote is a summons to the working class of your city, and all the land, to be done with politicianism; to organize in the revolutionary Unions of your class, and thereby, united upon the political as well as the economic field, to march upon the political fastness of the Steel-Magee combine, dislodge them, and take and hold the reins of industry for use and not for sale and profit.

The bribe-taker can never be overthrown so long as the bribe-giver is allowed to remain in possession. The bomb that blows up a Czar only crowns his Czar-successor. The only act that can dethrone both the Czar and his successor is the blow at Czarism. By the same token the vote that downs one wing of the capital Usurper only raises the other. Neither can be voted down but by a vote that votes down both.

The monster Steel and the Magee monster can be hit only by the vote that hits both.

No trimming!

No reform!

Only one immediate demand—the demand for the immediate surrender of the Capitalist monster, the two-headed monster, that in the straits of Pittsburg is rendering life unsafe and progress impossible.

The only one-thing-at-a-time that will stead you at this election juncture is the pregnant S.L.P. ballot.

Fire that bomb one and all!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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