

EDITORIAL

HOW COULD THERE BE?

By DANIEL DE LEON

“CLASS legislation!” “Class legislation!” “There must be no class legislation in America!” is the tune to which Mr. James W. Van Cleave fills several columns in the November *Van Norden's Magazine*.

If the Socialist Labor Party were as wicked as it is often declaimed to be; it would ask Mr. Van Cleave, How about the Anti-Rebating law, under which the Standard was fined that unpaid \$29,240,000? Was not that a law passed in favor of farmers and other snippers,—hence, class legislation?

How about the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, under which the Du Pont Powder Trust and the Coal Roads are now being tried? Was not that a law passed in favor of the small producer, whom the trust tended to wipe out,—hence, class legislation?

How about the Anti-Bucket Shop Law recently jammed through the New York Legislature? Was not that a law intended to divert lambs' money into the pockets of the “legitimate” speculators of Wall Street,—hence class legislation?

But, not being so wicked, the Socialist Labor Party simply leans back, its features illuminated with a broad grin, and says to Mr. Van Cleave:

“Sir, you in common with your brother capitalists have decried as traitorous, anarchistic and fire-brandistic the attempts of the Socialist Labor Party to teach the workers of this country that there are classes, and that the struggle between them is irrepressible. Sir, you have over and over again reiterated, “There are no classes in America!” Since there are no classes in America, what are you worrying about? Without classes there can be no class legislation. How could there be?”

And the broad grin would develop into a loud chuckle and a louder roar, at the plight of the Van Cleavees, caught in the meshes of their own false reasoning.

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

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