

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 330.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

SPECIMEN LORIMER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE getters-up of syndicated articles to prove the surpassing beauties of the modern regime; the grandiose opportunities it offers to all; incidentally, to disprove the hollowness of the calamity howling Socialists;—these folks should now feel in clover. Senator Lorimer’s case should be good for syndicated articles manifold enough to last the rest of this year, and deep into the next.

The syndicated biographers of our “self-made men” have grown eloquent over the Barnums (who, if they had their deserts, would have been sent to the penitentiary for raising money under false pretenses); they have ransacked the dictionaries for praises to the Mortons (who, if the law had not been a cobweb to catch flies with, would have been convicted of fraudulent failures); they have waxed lyric over the Jay Goulds (who, if capitalist law had no two measures, one for the brigand another for the door-mat thief, would have had to serve a term for at hard labor);—all these and many more of the same stamp have the syndicated biographers extolled as brilliant stars of “industry,” “cleverness,” “push,” whose footprints upon the sands of time show the path to follow—monuments of the fact that all, however poor, can “get there,” all avenues to wealth, distinction, glory being open to all, none but the lazy, dull and pushless being left behind.

And, now comes the case of Senator Lorimer; United States Senator Lorimer; a Senator of no less a State than the State of Illinois. He started poor. He started as a car driver. Do Socialists prate of “classes” and all that? Just watch the proletarian Lorimer as he majestically hews his path clear, and, rising, ever higher and higher,—ends by purchasing a seat to the United States Senate.

Who will dare to talk of “classes” and “class distinctions,” and “class barriers” after this? We have no classes in the United States—all we have is “clever” people on one side, “dullards” on the other; “push”-ful gentry and “push”-less nobodies.

Here is a theme for the syndicated praise-singers of capitalist society; with Senator Lorimer as the latest but not least brilliant specimen.

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Uploaded May 2011

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