

EDITORIAL

IS IT A NEW CONVERT?

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Rev. Dr. Moberly, Canon of Christ Church College, Oxford, speaking in praise of the Cecil Rhodes scholarships plan, has said things that don't fit with the Canon functions. The Canon functions are to put salves on the consciences of the class that plunders the workers; to make the plunderers out to be an elite class, the fit rulers of the world, chosen by Providence as the trustees of wealth to be enjoyed and "judiciously" dispensed in "giving work." The Canon functions are to nourish in the abject and un-chosen masses a due sense of veneration for the chosen few. It is, accordingly, clean out of keeping with such functions to do, or say aught that is calculated to breed contempt for the elite. But that's just what the Canon has done. Said he:

"Cecil Rhodes' plan will bring picked men of the best type of American, rather than the wealthy Americans who have hitherto come to Oxford, mainly for social advantages."

What does this mean if not that the Americans, chosen by Providence as the trustees of the nation, are not a "best type"? What does it mean if not that those "chosen trustees" misappropriated the trust funds entrusted to them, and, while pretending to be after learning, went to Oxford for other purposes? In short, what does it mean?

In these days one sees wondrous sights. And not a few are looking for some kind of Messianic phenomenon. Can the almost impossible be that Canon Moberly has got a new heart into him? Can it be that he has become cleansed and converted? Can it even be that he is a forerunner of what is at hand, and that Canonship is about to defect wholesale from its false gods, and begin to preach Truth?

Who knows! Are there not Rev. Herrons, Rev. MacCartneys, Rev. Simonsons, Rev. Stett Wilsons, Rev. Vails, and Rev. Browns in this country? If so, why should

not there be at least one Canon in England who will swerve from the primrose path of dalliance and tread the steep and thorny road?

The Rev. Dr. Moberly, Canon of Christ Church College, Oxford, may be expected any day to be read about at some banquet of imitation Socialists in England.

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