

EDITORIAL

TRY AGAIN, NATIONAL CIVIC FEDERATION!

By DANIEL DE LEON

AS a reason why Socialism is an absurd dream, Ada C. Sweet states in *The National Civic Federation Review* of last November 15, that “any man will fight for his home and his property,” on account of which, the lady is of the opinion that the Socialist program “would start such a civil war as the world has never yet seen in all its long history.”

For a civil war, such as the world has never yet seen in all its long history, to break loose, because of the natural instinct of any man to protect his home and property, there must be a state of things of which the following are a few leading elements—

First, there must be a large number of men without “home and property.”

The very incentive to defend one’s home and property must act as an incentive to acquire the same. Men with home and property are not going to turn things upside down. The men who will do the upturning must be the homeless and propertyless.

Furthermore, the number of these homeless and propertyless men must be huge. A few could never start a civil war such as the world has never yet seen in all its long history. Such a war presupposes the existence of a large homeless and propertyless mass. It presupposes the existence of a majority of such people: indeed, it presupposes a vast majority, opposed to a small minority, whose home and property entrenchments are so powerful as to prevent their being quickly carried, and the conflict from being quickly settled.

The second element in the state of things, needed to bring about a civil war such as the world has never seen in all its long history, and pivoted upon man’s need of home and property, is measureless poverty in the midst of measureless wealth, and vastly more wealth producible—in other words, a system of plunder

such as the world has never yet seen in all its long history.

To the sober mind the passages quoted from Ada C. Sweet in *The National Civic Federation Review*, together with all that the passages legitimately imply, prove exactly the opposite of what the lady claims, and is paid to claim. They prove even more. They prove that of all utopian chimeras none equals that which imagines Capitalism can abide, or Socialism can fail.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded January 2011

slpns@slp.org