

EDITORIAL

A CATHOLIC PRIEST PROMOTING BIGAMY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A COG must have slipped from the brains and the tongue of Father Comeau, the resident priest of Winnipeg, an interview with whom, reproduced elsewhere in this issue,¹ appears in the *Vancouver Pioneer* of last December 23.² The interview is a “dead giveaway.”

Father Comeau’s explicit answer to the reporter for the *Pioneer*, concerning the case of a Catholic who married a Protestant woman, and who, seeing his wife refuses to submit to the conditions of the Catholic Church, leaves her, and insists upon returning to his church, and wishes to be married to another woman by a priest,—Father Comeau’s explicit answer to the hypothetical case was that he would “get two witnesses, whom I can trust never to reveal what has taken place, and I marry the parties in secret,” adding that he knew that if the former wife should get to know of the second marriage, he “might be persecuted.” Prosecution under the law the Father calls “persecution.”

It is of no consequence to the issue whether the law is wise or not that defines bigamy, and enters the act in the criminal code. The only thing that concerns the issue is that a man, married under the law, and not legally divorced, is, under the law, a bigamist and punishable as such if he marry again during his first wife’s life. Such is the law of the land in Winnipeg. All this notwithstanding, Father Comeau

¹ [Not included here—Editor, etc.]

² [The following appeared in the correspondence column of the *Daily People* for January 18, 1912:

A CORRECTION.

To the *Daily* and *Weekly People*:—Permit me to make a correction in connection with the article, “Bigamy promoted by the Catholic Church,” (*Daily People*, January 3). The name of the paper in which the above mentioned article appeared is *Vancouver Daily Province*; and not *Pioneer*, as printed in *The People*.

Godfrey Anderson.

Vancouver, B.C., January 11.]

stands forth not only as a condoner, but as a promoter of bigamy; and, not only that, he stands forth as an encourager of others to steep themselves in crime as witnesses who are to keep the secret.

Again and again the *Daily People* has maintained, and proved the claim with facts, that the Roman Catholic hierarchy is not the priesthood of a religion, but the agency of politics ambushed behind religion.

Again and again, the *Daily People*, being the organ of the Socialist Labor Party, hence the organ of the broadest democracy, has upheld and defended the right of the Roman Catholic political party to advance, like any other political party, its political tenets untrammelled; to agitate for them; and to seek to convince others of their superiority.

Again and again, the *Daily People* has demonstrated that, in point of goal, the Socialist Labor Party and the Roman Catholic political party are both equally subversive of the present State; the difference being that, whereas the Socialist Labor Party strains for a State that will be even further away from theocratic rule than the present state is, the Roman Catholic political party strains for a State that shall be a reversal to the theocracy of the Dark Ages.

Finally, again and again the *Daily People* has pointed out that, differently from other political parties, all of whom, whatever the new policies that they may advocate, submit to the existing policies until overthrown, the Roman Catholic political party starts by disregarding the existing policies and violating them.

All of this the *Daily People* illustrated recently with the conduct of the convicted Father Travassos of New Bedford, Mass.,³ and now reillustrates with the posture of Father Comeau—not yet convicted of promoting bigamy.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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³ ["The Case of Father Travassos," *Daily People*, October 19, 1909.]