SOCIALISM, "THE CREED OF DESPAIR": JOINT DEBATE IN FANEUIL HALL, MARCH 22, 1909

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Socialism, "the Creed of Despair": Joint Debate in Faneuil Hall, March 22, 1909 by James F. Carey & George B. Hugo

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JAMES F. CAREY & GEORGE B. HUGO

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"THE CREED OF DESPAIR"

Joint Debate

IN

FANEUIL HALL, MARCH 22, 1909

BETWEEN

GEORGE B. HUGO President Employers' Association of Massachusetts AFFERMATIVE

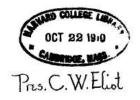
AND

JAMES F. CAREY State Secretary Socialist Party of Massachusetts NEGATIVE

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PUBLISHED MAY, 1909

First Impression

WHY?

In an address delivered at the annual meeting of the Employers' Association of Massachusetts, I characterized Socialism as "The Creed of Despair" and "A Menace to Modern Civilization," which, being reported in the daily press, was quickly noted by the Socialist Party Club of Boston. A challenge was immediately issued to publicly debate the question whether Socialism was "The Creed of Despair" and "A Menace to Modern Civilization," my opponent to be Mr. James F. Carey. This challenge I at once accepted, stipulating, however, that I be informed of the particular brand of Socialism we were to discuss; also that tickets be printed for each side and the hall divided. The Debs platform was given me as their special creed, and Faneuil Hall was selected for the debate, Socialists occupying one side and Anti-Socialists the other.

Immediately succeeding the debate, which occasioned much interest among followers of both sides, I received many inquiries in regard to publishing it. The Socialist Party Club submitted copy for publication, which, being incorrect and slackly handled, I refused to countenance, notifying them of my reasons and of the existence of my copyright. (They, nevertheless, proceeded to publish it, ignoring the law in question, quite in accordance with established Socialistic tenets.) In addition to the many errors, however, I objected strongly to the use of the union label under my name, and to be inflicted upon my friends, many of whom are averse, as I am, to the badge, label, or tag of any organization or collective group organized for purely selfish ends. I thus, in justice to myself and friends, felt forced to publish the debate, but I shall feel amply repaid for the time expended in its preparation, should the perusal of this little book impress upon even one mind the fallacies and impossibilities of Socialism.

GEO. B. HUGO.

Boston, May 25, 1909.

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"Why don't you vote the Socialist ticket? . . . Because down deep in your hearts there is the lingering hope that some day you will have some of these wage slaves working for YOU! . . . But, when the time comes that all hope is gone of having wage slaves under your domination, then you will become Socialists!"

IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN MAN ACKNOWLEDGES TO HIMSELF THAT HE IS A FAILURE, WHEN HOPE IS DEAD, WHEN DESPAIR SETS IN, THEN SOCIALISM HOLDS OUT ITS HANDS AND CRIES, "ACCEPT OUR CREED, THE CREED OF DESPAIR."— George B. Hugo.

SUBJECT OF DEBATE:

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"SOCIALISM: THE CREED OF DESPAIR."

The affirmative presented by Mr. George B. Hugo, the negative by Mr. James F. Carey, Mr. George W. Coleman, publisher of the *Christian Endeavor World*, acting as Chairman.

OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN COLEMAN.

This is certainly a very interesting occasion, as is evidenced by the large crowd that has gathered, and so early in the evening. Inasmuch as we have a battle royal on this evening, which is to last two hours, the best thing that the Chairman can do is not to take up any time in making a speech.

You will want to know something about the conditions of the debate: the affirmative are to have thirty minutes, the negative thirty minutes; the affirmative in rebuttal twenty minutes, the negative in rebuttal thirty minutes; and the affirmative in closing ten minutes. The management have been very careful to arrange this thing in as fair a way