EDITORIAL

A BELATED "SON OF LOYALTY."

By DANIEL DE LEON

TOM WATSON in his *The Jeffersonian* of last week contrasts himself and policy with Socialism. "We," he says of himself and fellow Populists, "want to drive out abuses; we want to cure the sick man, not to kill him," whereas Socialism would kill the Sick Man of bourgeois society, not cure him.

**THOMAS E. WATSON
(1856–1922)**

It is said that in the days of the American Revolution there was an organization styled "Sons of Loyalty." The purpose of these Sons was to oppose the Revolution by pen and speech, occasionally by waylaying Washington's soldiers. It is not reported that the Sons had a weekly; but if they had, some such article as the following surely must have flown from their feverish brains and tremulous pens:

"The Revolution is an insane idea. We do not deny that there are abuses committed by Crown and Parliament. We are as anxious as anyone can be to drive out the abuses. But lo, the Revolution! That's something radically different. We want to cure the sick man. Crown and Parliament are sick. We do not want to kill Parliament and Crown. What new fangled language is that one hears nowadays about 'overthrowing Feudalism!' Overthrow the King? Overthrow Parliament? Overthrow the principle that Parliament has a right to tell us what it is well for us to manufacture, and what we should keep our hands off? whom we may trade with abroad and whom we should not? Do away with all that? Why, that is not to cure, that is to kill the sick man. Let us cure the sick man. Let us put him in condition to exercise his God-given powers without abusing them. But to kill him! Why, that would overthrow civilization, smash up the family and uproot religion."

The weekly organ of the Sons of Loyalty must have borne some such name as "The Blind Bat." The name would fit the paper of Tom Watson, a belated Son of Loyalty, much better than *The Jeffersonian*.