

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 52.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE THREE STARS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Emblem of the Industrial Workers of the World is surmounted by three stars—

AGITATION,
EDUCATION,
ORGANIZATION.

Of the three, the second or middle star holds the central, the pivotal place on the Emblem. On the one hand, Agitation is but a beating of the air if it centers not in Education; on the other hand, Organization, the wizard's wand that conjures up and compels success, is an impossibility without it is tempered in Education.

Education is pivotal. It is the mother of Knowledge and Enthusiasm—twin sisters, interdependent for Success. Enthusiasm is to Knowledge what gunpowder is to the bullet. Like the bullet, Knowledge is inert matter unless fired by the gunpowder of Enthusiasm; like the bullet, around which, when idle, spiders may weave their webs, Knowledge, unheated, unstirred by Enthusiasm, breeds maggots. On the other hand, Enthusiasm without Knowledge is an unloaded, bulletless shot—a flash in the pan, just so much noise, signifying nothing. Enthusiasm is the fire under the pot, Knowledge the meat within: without the fire beneath, the meat remains uncooked; without the meat above, the pot cracks.

Education is pivotal. It is the road, the only road to Organization. Without the knowledge and enthusiasm that Education imparts, Organization, like a hoopless barrel, falls to pieces. Education supports, builds up, holds together, lights the path of Organization. The Socialist Republic presupposes the Industrial Organization of the Working Class.

Wisely, in the camp of the Industrial Workers of the World, is Education raised to the prominence given to it. Not that education that the alleged “Seats of

Learning” of capitalist society impart; not that education that puffs up, delights in quaint refinements of words, and breeds the “ego maniac”; not that education that consists in the dry-as-dust erudition of books; not that education that petrifies the brain and petrifies the heart; not, in fine, that education that, however uplifting it be to a people whose material existence is fitly provided for, is a mockery where the material foundation for a happy life is lacking; but that Education, so simple and yet so needful, that the present stage of social evolution is pre-eminently in need of; that Education that drills the Working Class in the knowledge of its status and fires it with the enthusiasm of its historic mission.

The Industrial Workers of the World has “hitched its chariot to the stars”. Its war cry is—Agitate, Educate, Organize.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded February 2008

slpns@slp.org