

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 199.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1908.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

GOV. SPARKS A WITNESS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN a country, so vast as the United States and in which social development is at so many different stages of ripeness, books on the source of capitalism should not be absolutely necessary. There is Nevada with her Gov. Sparks, for instance. What book—either of science, as Marx's *Capital* or of humor, as Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*; or of fiction, as Eugene Sue's majestic series of historic novels known under the collective title of *History of a Proletarian Family Across the Ages*—which of any, or all these books put together, could furnish a more graphic description of the sources of capital than does the gold mine owning and advertising Gov. Sparks of Nevada, who, moreover, sought to simply bullyrag the Goldfield miners into sweating dividends for him?

The capitalist class does not like to have its antecedents “raked up.” After the capitalist has bagged enough plunder to take a good wash and put on clean clothes, he struts forth as a paragon of decency, and law and order. When the history of his class is written, and truth is substituted for fiction, the capitalist calls the revelation “incendiary rant.” But here in America the species is seen from infancy to dotage. The appearance in a forest of an oak sapling conveys information regarding the appearance of the monarchs of the forest in their youth. It so happens with Gov. Sparks of Nevada. He is a sample of the “original” capitalist. He verifies all that books of history contain regarding the methods by which the capitalist rises to power.

Upon this desk are mining circulars and letters written by Gov. Sparks booming gold mines in Nevada; giving his word for the richness of the mines;—and enclosing subscription blanks for stock. A patent medicine is not advertised more unctuously than Gov. Sparks advertises the stock of his company. Starting with the patent medicine method of scattering false information by which to catch gudgeons,

Gov. Sparks proceeded to the rowdy methods that characterize the capitalist accumulator, and, seeing that rowdies are cowards, Gov. Sparks stepped upon the stage in the double capacity of rowdy and coward. He rowdy-like, was willing to club and dragoon the miners of Nevada to slave it for him; coward-like he did not dare to do the clubbing himself, whereupon, in violation of his oath of office, he wheedled Federal troops into the State expecting them to do the dirty work for him.

It has been shown by Socialism and history that capitalism is born reeking with slime and blood from head to foot. Gov. Sparks reeks with slime; that he does {not} also reek with blood is not his fault: he comes late in the season.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded December 2009

slpns@slp.org