

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 25.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

HALF-WAY WILSON.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FROM Sea Girt a list is issued of Republicans throughout the country who have notified the Democratic presidential nominee of their intention to vote for him, life-long Republicans though they were. The list does not mention names. Gov. Wilson leaves it to the writers themselves to make public their “change of heart” if they choose. The list nevertheless makes public the occupation of each writer, and the section of the country that he hails from. That is quite enough.

One is “a member of the largest electric and manufacturing company of the world{,}” located at Pittsburg. Another is “a prominent fruit grower” of New York State. A third is “the president of a Maine national bank.” A fourth is “the head of a trust company” of Chicago. Still another is the “holder of an important position with one of the large railroad companies” in Wisconsin. Another is “the president of one of the strongest banks” in Brooklyn. Another is “a retired farmer” of Massachusetts. And so on.

Down the list, the Republicans who have turned to the Democratic candidate are one and all active, or retired, exploiters of the working class. Look as one may into the “pedigree” of these ex-Republicans, and now Wilson-Democrats, not one is even remotely connected with the proletariat, except as a plunderer of the same.

The publication of the list is unwise.

Just because we consider Gov. Woodrow Wilson to be above the regulation politician trick of setting nest-eggs afloat, and using bait to hook gudgeons, we hold the list to be truthful;—and what that list reveals is the bourgeois instinct that the Governor is “safe and sane”; and the conviction that the Taft-Roosevelt program of Absolutism is unnecessary.

Accordingly, a bird’s-eye view of Gov. Wilson’s political clientele justifies the conclusion that the set belongs under the category of visionaries. No doubt the Gov-

ernor is “safe and sane,” in that he is true to the bourgeois class, with its class superstition concerning the necessity of a capitalist class to “give Labor work.” No doubt the Governor is animated by a warm love for all the bourgeois freedoms, without which the stability of present society is endangered, and no progress is possible. At the same time to hold that class rule can now continue along the lines of the early bourgeois,—of the bourgeois during the lofty period of his revolution—that is visionariness.

To the credit of the proletariat, none has been “converted” to Wilsonism. And the militants among them are perfectly clear upon this—

Either the Socialist Republic, or Absolutism.

The times demand the organized and regulated freedom of the Industrial State; and if that can not yet be, then, either the Absolutism of Mysticism or Theocracy that Taft represents, or the Absolutism of the unmystified Iron Glove represented by Roosevelt.

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Uploaded October 2013

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