

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 189.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1913.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

## 1913.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE year that has just opened opens fraught with possibilities the realization of which may yet mark it “a date to reckon from.”

True, it is no “new thing” to see leading bourgeois and their establishments—Pillars of Society—hailed over the coals. True, it is no “new thing” to see one of the large parties, and that the leading capitalist party, “shattered” to the tune of “revolution.” True, it is no “new thing” to see Discontent towering like a tidal wave, threatening to engulf society. True, it is no “new thing” to see governmental departments denounced in unmeasured terms. True, it is no “new thing” to read in victorious bourgeois platforms declarations concerning need of “radical reforms,” and the promise to carry out the same. All these are social and political manifestations that the country has experienced before. What imparts a distinct characteristic to the present repetition of the manifestations is the circumstance that the economic-material foundation of our institutions has reached that point of transformation that even Pillars of Society are now seen in numerous instances to declare as “accomplished facts” conditions that once were universally held by the bourgeois to be impossible, and that were then sneered at as “un-American visions of the visionary Socialists.” That fact places a novel stamp upon the events of the day.

Long are the cycles in social evolution; numerous the perturbing causes that spring up to give a bias to events. The ones are so long, the others so numerous that prophecies of calendar precision are more than risky. Subject to this caveat, we shall venture the forecast that 1913 may be expected to mark a historic epoch.

To this end 1912 has wrought valiantly. The issues it has referred to 1913 are perplexing, or luminous, according as they are approached with eyes that are slothful in habit, or with eyes that are trained to distinguish.

Mighty capitalist interests are arrayed against one another, and their feuds,

irreconcilable on the path of progress, are reconcilable on the path of reaction only. Nor are these feuds rendered less acute by the rise of intellectual forces, such as those of Woodrow Wilson and Robert Marion La Follette, whose minds are still in the clouds of a Past that social evolution has long buried, and that the bourgeois himself has mightily contributed to lay under the sod.

So far, the aspect would seem to be one of chaos. Yet there is system in the chaos. Only the most superficial will ignore the symptom of the Socialist Labor Party's 30,000 and odd poll, registering a more than 100 per cent. increase since last presidential election under conditions the most adverse. Even the most superficial will be arrested by the huge poll of the Socialist party. It matters not how un-Socialistic, often even anti-Socialist, the latter poll be, it, underscored by the unquestionably Socialist poll of the S.L.P., tells the tale that Socialism has become a word to conjure with, a rallying cry, a social force, not before known in the land. The term "Socialism" has acquired a "standing" in the civilized world. It stands for social overthrow, with a concrete goal. Of prime importance is the revelation that the term is becoming increasingly sympathetic to the mass of Discontent. Will that mass, theoretically receptive, prove actually so to the practical teachings of Socialism, and be turned from a mob to an organization?

The year 1913 will give some answer. The year 1913 will record some sign of whether the militant Socialists will be able to conquer the minds, as they are conquering the hearts, of the discontented mass. The year 1913 will give some sign indicative of whether the term Socialism will be submerged, as so many promiseful terms have in history, or whether it will rise triumphant, as so many others did. With such an alternative as the problem, 1913 summons the militant Socialists of the land to show their mettle.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded June 2014

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)