

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 13.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE PROSPECT OF MOB-RULE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

BY all odds the most conspicuous Democratic candidate for presidential honors, and deservedly conspicuous by reason of his natural and his acquired intellectual brilliancy, is Woodrow Wilson, present Governor of New Jersey.

Gov. Wilson has “swung the circle” of the country’s lecture platforms. He has uttered himself everywhere with admirable clearness. The photograph of the man’s mind is taken distinctly.

From the Supreme Court down, Gov. Wilson condemns the ruling class. The recent Trust decisions he has stigmatized as farces that “change the form” of the evil only and leave the essence untouched. And the Governor is not fatuous enough to imagine the evil lies with the officials. He pointedly shows the evil lies with the owners of the Nation’s wealth.

Nor does the Governor look only in one direction. He turns around and beholds the seething mass of the proletariat. His keen eye perceives the mass unorganized. His keen sense shudders at the fact. Having drunk deep at the fountain heads of history, the Governor penetrates the future far enough to realize that such a mass, though impotent to accomplish aught against much smaller numbers that are organized and drilled into unity of action, is instinct with a power destructive. And the Governor shudders at the sight and the thought. The dread of “Mob-Rule” rises to his mind—and he expresses the dread.

Capitalism is not all crime; it is not all stupidity; it is not all blindness. While blindness, stupidity and crime are capitalist apanages, Capitalism also has its excellences. It could not be otherwise. Capitalism, being a hand maid of progress; being the organizer of industry in style and form to enable it to strike from the limbs of Man the shackles of poverty; being, accordingly, a pathfinder for Civilization and

Freedom;—being all this Capitalism promotes enlightenment, and itself is bound to raise from among its own elect some type of the intellectuality that itself fosters.

Such a type is Gov. Woodrow Wilson, a type well worth watching. It is as such a type that the Governor's figure, though small in physical inches, towers to-day over the country and reflects and exemplifies once again the profoundness of the Marxian dictum—the Capitalist Class has everything to dread from the proletariat in its ignorance, and everything to fear from the Proletariat in its enlightenment.

Mob-Rule? Yes! That is in prospect—unless Socialist Propaganda, fearless, because sound, organizes and drills the Proletariat, in order that the bourgeois dread of its ignorance be not verified, and the bourgeois fear of its enlightenment be realized in the downfall of the bourgeois social system and the glory of the Industrial, or Socialist, Republic.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded May 2012

slpns@slp.org