

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 285.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE SLOGAN CRIES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Presidential ticket, nominated by the National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party, combines two vital slogan cries—one of the Past, the other of the Present.

One time the cry for freedom was centered in the Vote.

The cry was made good by the bourgeoisie who, in its revolutionary days, raised the cry. The making of that cry good was one of the achievements of the bourgeois revolution.

From that day on the citizen's right to the suffrage justly became a cardinal principle of civilization.

But history did not exhaust itself with that achievement, any more than it exhausted itself with the substitution of the bourgeois for the feudal social system. Unexhausted history continued to breathe and to pulsate. The consequence is the approach of another Social Revolution, the Socialist or Proletarian Revolution, which will supplant bourgeois rule with the Industrial Republic.

Standing upon that achievement of the bourgeois Revolution which consists in the Right to Vote, the oncoming or Socialist Revolution utters a slogan cry of its own—The Right to Work.

The slogan cry of the Socialist Revolution sounds novel to people who imagine that the Right to Vote was the coping stone of Freedom. To such people the new slogan cry sounds so novel that it sounds irrational. The new slogan cry is but the supplement of the first.

The Right to Vote confers sovereignty—the sovereignty of a day, or, rather, of about a minute, the time needed to exercise the sovereign right. Unsupplemented with the Right to Work, the suffrage sovereignty of a fraction of a day is blotted out during the remaining 364 days of the year. During these remaining 364 days the

sovereign Voter can be bullyragged in the factory, can be kept at the hungry edge of starvation, can be held with his nose to the grindstone of long hours—nay, more, the sovereign Voter can be unceremoniously kicked out of work and set upon the sidewalk.

No great achievement in civilization was meant for a mockery. Sovereignty at the hustings is a mockery when yoked to slavery in the shop. The great achievement of the Right to Vote must be supplemented with the Right to Work, which means the opportunity to exercise one's labor capacity with the certainty to enjoy the full measure of the return.

As every male child—soon, probably, every female child also,—is born in America with the Right to Vote soon as he attains voting age, so must every child be born also with the Right to Work. As the Right to Vote is not made dependent upon previous efforts, but is considered a natural attribute of the citizen, so the Right to Work is a slogan cry that is to insure to the citizen the opportunity for sovereignty the remaining 364 days of the year.

The S.L.P. ticket that heads this column—a ticket of wage-slave candidates—underscores the combination of the two historic slogans, the only ticket, of all that will be put forth this year, that will utter the slogans that the hour demands.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded May 2013

slpns@slp.org