

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 304.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## FORCE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** SYMPATHETIC Schenectady, N.Y., correspondent, who grants and thoroughly approves of all that the Socialist Labor Party holds with regard to the banefulness of Anarchy, nevertheless asks:

“Does not the S.L.P. lean too far on the side of anti-Force?”

We are not aware that the S.L.P. does. Indeed, full-orbed as the S.L.P.’s position is, it is too well poised to be out of plumb in any respect.

The Marxian statement—“Force is the midwife of revolutions”—condenses the Socialist position on “force,” inversely, on the opposite of “force” also.

Socialism needs not the Carlyslian motto “Undoubted Might is requisite to Right.” Neither need Socialism screen itself behind the passage in President Benjamin Harrison’s last message to Congress, wherein those who objected to his proposed bill, for the military protection of the ballot box in the, South, with the cry of “The Force Bill,” were read a lecture on the important function of “Force” in society. The Marxian motto covers it all.

Socialism recognizes the mission of Force especially in the dynamic social stages that are called revolutionary. What Socialism denies, and the denial is implied in the Marxian sentence, is that all that is needed to produce a child is the midwife. The midwife “Force” does not and can not take the place of the functions that precede birth, All that the midwife “Force” can do, and valuable is the help, is to facilitate birth, the birth of the new social order that the revolution ushers in.

It follows from this that the midwife “Force” must be a sober personage, well balanced mentally, well equipped physically, and both mentally and physically well trained. Rioters, loud-mouthed declaimers, insolent false reasoners and promoters of ignorance, inciters to passionate outbreaks, people who advocate practices that sunder the social bonds between man and man—neither can such people be mid-

wives themselves but of social calamities, nor can they train the midwife Force.

While no political organization can get along without discipline, the discipline required by the economic organization, the supplementer of the political in the revolutionary movement, is of vastly more importance, and must be vastly stricter. This is the consequence of the circumstance that upon the economic organization devolves pre-eminently the function of the midwife “Force” in the achievement of the revolution. The exercise of Force is on the border land of Disorder. Hence whatever civilized organization has “Force” for its function is, by the very law of its existence, compelled to keep itself under fullest discipline. Any other policy fatedly dooms the organization to burst asunder like a bomb. Immorality, such as theft preachments, cannot be the hoop for discipline.

The training of the workers in strict discipline is a duty that holds front rank among the duties of the economic organization of the working class. He who apprehends that the S.L.P. leans too far on the side of “anti-Force” confuses with “anti-Force” the policy that unflaggingly warns Unionism against sentiments that breed practices that make intelligent discipline impossible.

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

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