

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 218.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## EMULATING ANTI-SOCIALISTS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**N**OT all bourgeois are dull enough to oppose Socialism directly. A good many of the breed have sense enough to know that to butt against Socialism is a thankless task, like kicking against pricks. Socialism, they know, has all the facts and arguments. The only way left to combat such a proposition is to admit its propriety, and then raise provisos that promise opportunities to run it into the ground. Such is the manoeuvre of the more intelligent bourgeois. "Socialism?" they argue with unction, "why certainly; we all believe in Socialism; but Socialism, so noble, so exalted [with increased unction], so glorious a social system, is, you must admit, an impossibility before the people, the workingmen, have been educated up to the point of understanding it. The rank-and-file of the people are not corrupt, greedy and grafters. The ruling capitalists are. Socialism will come. It is the present tendency of society, it is progressive and effective. Let us educate the rank and file, and imbue the masses with the teachings of Socialism."

So argue the schemers among the bourgeois. And, in the same breath that they make the argument, they fill the columns of their papers with denunciations of those who seek to imbue the masses with principles of Socialism; they hire people to break up the educational clubs that are set up in behalf of Socialism; and they condemn Socialism as unpatriotic and unclean. So the bourgeois towards Socialism.

Exactly parallel is the posture and policy of the Socialist party Officialdom-and-Press towards Industrial Unionism. The parallel is preserved in cold type in the arguments of Mr. Morris Hillquit in the recent debate held by him and Haywood in this city.

Like the scheming bourgeois anti-Socialist, the Hillquits dare no longer attack Industrial Unionism. They used to poke fun at it. Echoing the stupidities of the A.F. of L., they ridiculed the idea of "coal heavers and carpenters in one Union." They

have become soberer. They care not to kick against the pricks of Industrial Unionist facts and reasoning. But they are A.F. of L-ites, receiving cash for being such; hence, they continue implacable foes of Industrial Unionism. How conduct themselves under such circumstances? Like the scheming anti-Socialist bourgeois afore-described. "Industrial Unionism?" say they, "Why, of course, we are all Industrial Unionists. We all believe in it. We 'fully and truly believe that the industrial form of organization is superior to the trade form of organization.' Certainly, Industrial Unionism 'is the present tendency of the Labor Movement.' It is 'the first and most important task of American Socialists to-day to imbue the workers of this country, no matter where you find them and no matter in what organization, with the teachings' of Industrial Unionism, and if you have done that, the form of organization will easily find itself; all of which we 'declare in absolute candor and sincerity.'" Whereupon, they immediately proceed to illustrate their "candor and sincerity" by voting down Industrialist resolutions in their conventions; by egging on scabs against Industrialists; by acting as gougers for Gompers; in short, by doing all that in them lies to retard Industrial Unionism.

The kinship between the bourgeois and the S.P. Officialdom-and-Press, betrayed by themselves in so many instances, is betrayed clearest in the conduct of the latter towards Industrial unionism and of the former towards Socialism.

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

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