

The People.

VOL. IX, NO. 3

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1899

PRICE 2 CENTS

SECOND EDITORIAL

APPLES FALL NOT FAR FROM THE TREE

By DANIEL DE LEON

In a recent issue, THE PEOPLE published two reports, that although proceeding from different regions of the land contained a passage that was essentially alike in both. One report, proceeding from Holyoke, Mass., alluded to the prominence of ex-union men who now strutted through the Holyoke streets swinging clubs as officers of "Law and Order"; the other hailed from Pittsburg, Pa., and gave an account of a Policeman, who was leisurely swinging his billy, and who, on ascertaining that our correspondent was interested in the Allegheny strike, then going on, volunteered the information and advice that the men on strike had no business to fight their employers; that he had himself been a member of the glass blowers' union; that his experience was strikes never did any good; and that the men ought simply to stand the conduct of the employer the best they could

The picture of these former union men, seeking refuge in the Policeman's uniform and outfit from the grinding development of capitalism; the picture of these men, who once pinned their faith on pure and simple unionism, found themselves deceived, were left in utter darkness on the Social Question, and look into the future as a dark tempest-tossed sea, that offers no outcome but the disgraceful one of petty jobs, as so many slim spars floating on the waters and to be snatched after and clung to by the happy few among the social wrecks who can manage to grab one;—such a pathetic picture throws a light back upon the pure and simple union that earns for it the curse of the race.

By their fruit shall they be judged, nor does the apple fall far from the apple-tree. By the picture offered by these ex-union policemen, as the fruit of the tree of Old Style, alias British, alias Pure and Simple Unionism, the generation can judge of the tree; by the nearness of those Policemen apples to the tree of Old Style, alias British, alias Pure and Simple Unionism, one can conclude as to the tree that they come from.

Such a tree, a veritable Upas-tree, must be hewn down; there is no help in it; it can only spread social gangrene.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded July 2004