

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 303.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1901.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## A DEMONSTRATION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**M**ORE than once comes the wail to this office that “success is impossible”: “the enemy is so strong,” his “wiles are so numerous,” and “the masses are so unsophisticated” that “confusion will ever reign supreme,” the “truth of Socialism can not reach them,” “the Socialist Labor Party can never be appreciated.” The men and women of little faith, who are so readily discouraged by appearances, should gather some little courage from a recent striking event that has thrilled with joy and nerved the already amply enthusiastic and nerveful hosts of the S.L.P.

When, 22 months ago, the crash of July 10 took place, the National organ of the S.L.P., THE PEOPLE, then a weekly only, was suddenly confronted with an exact imitation,—as far as external appearances could go. Not until the bogus publication was looked into could the false ring of the counterfeit be distinguished: in name, vignette, size of paper, and distribution of the articles, the counterfeit followed closely the genuine paper.

Nor was that all. Altho’ the assailants were ignominiously driven from THE PEOPLE’S editorial room, and all the paper’s archives, correspondence, etc., was saved, there remained, nevertheless, in the hands of the Kangaroos the paper’s mailing-list, P.O. permit, exchange list and all such other parts of THE PEOPLE’S essential machinery of distribution, that had been confided by the Party to the worthless *Volkszeitung*.

A completer instance of power to confuse, a completer opportunity to blanket the Right and give a chance to the Wrong, can hardly be imagined. On the morning of July 11, 1899, THE PEOPLE had to start to rebuild its own mechanism of distribution, so as to be able to reach the public, and in the doing of this it encountered the added difficulty of crossing that gate to the public—the P.O. The Kangaroos had invoked the aid of the capitalist government in the behalf of their counterfeit. For four days THE PEOPLE bundles lay stacked up in the P.O. It was not until the fifth day that the barrier was cleared and THE PEOPLE could reach

the outside world. The counterfeit article, now known as “The Bogus,” had this full time the lead of THE PEOPLE, and it could fly from the start fully equipped with THE PEOPLE’S mailing-list, etc.

And yet, what happened? Were the masses taken in? Was the desired confusion reached? Was the Truth blanketed and the Lie swallowed? In short, did “The Bogus” prosper and did THE PEOPLE pine away? If, indeed, the power of the foes of Socialism were what weak souls judge from appearances, and if the masses were the gullible beings they are rashly taken for by the superficial observer, the answers to the above questions would have to be a series of emphatic affirmations. Yet not so! One emphatic NO is brought out by the facts: Within a few months “The Bogus” began to betray decided signs of decomposition: the signs of decomposition increased and multiplied: from being self-sustaining, the day it started its pirate career with THE PEOPLE’S property, its deficit grew and gathered size, until its last official report, altho’ visibly doctored, registered a weekly deficit of \$98.61, and finally, it curled up and died, dropping the name that it had usurped. Hand in hand with this negative demonstration, a positive demonstration was taking place. THE PEOPLE beat its way through all obstacles; it steadily rebuilt its machinery of distribution, which speedily became larger than the old one; its circulation gained with rapid strides; within a year it gave birth to the DAILY PEOPLE,—the first daily Socialist paper in the English language, and the pride of the S.L.P.; and to-day it sails undisputed, with its old respected and never abandoned name, the waters at the bottom of which the crazy craft of “The Bogus” lies wrecked.

No! Neither is the enemy the irresistible power that Pusillanimity imputes to it, nor are the masses the hopeless “stuffers” that Ignorance takes them for. Thoroughness in principle, firmness in tactics is THE power of the day. Subservient thereto the spheres ever have moved.

As with THE PEOPLE, so with the S.L.P. Its imitators must go under, one after the other. Space in Sociology has no more room, than has space in Nature, for the absurd, because incoherent, or for the incoherent, because absurd.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded February 2006