

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 336.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1901.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## WELL FOR FRANCE!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** certain capitalist, unbosoming himself with a capitalist Editor, is reported, black upon white, as having held this language:

“It might as well be admitted, once for all, that the time of arbitrary rule, exercised by employer over employee, is gone by,—sad to say. Until recently we did as we pleased with the workingman, or almost so. It didn’t work bad. That that is over, thoroughly over, strikes one in the eye; the thing is no longer open to doubt. The workingman has opened his eyes; or at least some people have made it their business to open them for him. He now is conscious of what he is, of his power, of his omnipotence. Henceforth he is to be reckoned with. We long had reason to expect that we would dispose of those Trade Unions, that reared their heads in the face of our authority: WE SEDUCED THEIR PRESIDENTS AND BROUGHT THEM OVER TO OUR SIDE. But that’s all over, all over.”

Who was that capitalist, to what country did he belong, in what capitalist paper did his utterance appear?

Can he have been an American capitalist, referring to the masses of the American workingmen? No. His estimate of the situation fits in some respects to American conditions; it does not fit in all, or in most respects. It fits in so far as it depicts the presidents of Trade Unions “seduced and brought over to the side” of the employer, in other words, it fits the Organized Scabbery period the country is now going through, and under which the healthy class instincts of the rank and file are downed with the aid of these Labor Lieutenants of the capitalist class. But the description certainly does not fit when it declares that period to be over. With a President Mahon of the Amalgamated Association of Street Car Employees blocking resolutions in favor of class-conscious political action in the national convention of his Union, held in this very State and at the very time when the rat-a-tap of the musketry, let loose by the capitalist political power upon the Albany division of his own organization, was making the windows of his convention hall rattle; with a

President Gompers of the A.F. of L. endorsing as “a friend of the workingman” the candidacy of a Tammany Senator Cantor, right after Cantor’s applauding the Tammany Governor Flower for sending the militia of the State to Buffalo to help the railroad magnates violate the 10-hour law, and break the switchmen’s strike; with a Ratchford pushing through resolutions commendatory of Mark Hanna at a miners’ convention immediately after the butchery of miners on strike against the Hannas;—with these and many more such incidents freshly burned into the quivering flesh of the proletariat, the mournfully made declaration that the time is passed when presidents of Trade Unions are “seduced and brought over” to the side of the employer, does not fit to America; and, of course, neither does the declaration fit to present American conditions that the eyes of the workingman are at last open.

No; it was not an American capitalist who spoke in this instance; it was a French capitalist; he was referring to the French workingman; and his words summarized the result of the intrepid “boring from without” conducted there by the French Socialist Labor Party,—the Parti Ouvrier Français.

The spokesman, one Nicholas Savon, of the Marseilles Dock Company, whose plaintive wail it is that appeared in the Paris *Figaro*, knew whereof he spoke. He sees Millerand tottering to his doom; he sees in that political manifestation a summary of the manifestations he has, to his unconcealed sorrow, run up against in the economic field. Yes, indeed, the time is gone by in France when leaders in the Labor Movement can be successfully “seduced and brought over” to the side of the employer.

As that day has dawned for France, so will it dawn for America. The eyes of the workingman will be opened here also. The S.L.P. is here on deck.

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

Uploaded April 2006