

DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WITH this issue the DAILY PEOPLE rounds the first year of its existence. The measure of the work done may be remotely taken by the attempted broad-side condensation of the last twelve-months' exposures of the Labor Fakir and his work, the unmasking of that capitalist battery, the Labor Lieutenants of Capitalism. When undertaken, it was thought possible to condense this work within four pages as a supplement to this anniversary issue; it soon became evident that many times four pages would be needed to do full justice to what may be called the sketch of this year's work. The matter overflowed the four allotted pages. The limitations of space compelled the virtual abandonment of the original plan: the matter was too plentiful to handle in one issue. The next best thing was done, as will appear from this issue.

In the language of the bard-moralist, whose words head to-day's issue,¹ with the blast of war blowing in its ears, it becomes a bona fide Socialist Movement to throw aside the stillness and humility that befits the days of peace, and assume the action of implacable hostility. Even the Socialist Labor Party, yielding to the natural law of inertia, might have sought to prolong the days of peace. But the evolutionary law willed it otherwise: the blast of war blew into its ears: the theories it had proclaimed asserted themselves in tangible facts: reaction, drawing its inspiration from its grovelling material interests, brought home to the S.L.P. the principle of the class struggle in a score of manifestations,—Organized Scabbism, Middle Class Taxation, Shyster Corruption, Vainglory of Mediocrity, Social Ash-barreldom, etc., etc. That blast of war left but one of two alternatives: either desertion, or the prompt taking up of the gauntlet, with "War to the Knife" for the battle cry. The Fighting S.L.P. saw but one alternative. It leaped forward to war.

¹ ["In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility.
But when the blast of war blows in his ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger."]

—Shakespeare, *King Henry V.*]

The DAILY PEOPLE was the speedy and natural result,—a result that was hailed with joy by the militants the land over, and received with gnashings of teeth by Reaction.

Rocked in its cradle by the applause of the one and the equally pleasant curses of the other, the DAILY PEOPLE now starts its second year with renewed assurance to disappoint neither its friends in their glowing expectations, nor its foes in their justified apprehensions.

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