

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 179.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1902.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## S.L.P. PERVERSENESS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**O the extensive collection of curiosities, gathered in this office on the movement that calls itself Socialist in opposition to the Socialist Labor Party, there have been added two documents that arrived to-day abreast of each other. They are: the recent municipal platform of the Salem, Mass., so-called Socialist party, and a new paper, started in this city, and named *Better Times*. A few extracts from the two specimens will convey an idea of their quality.

The exordium of the first runs this wise:

If you want to buy coal at \$4.00 a ton vote the Socialist ticket.

The declaration of principles of the second runs thus:

Anything that will raise your pay, anything that will shorten your hours, anything that will reduce the price of your necessaries of life...will find expression in this paper.

And the point is illustrated by the following thing, which finds expression in the paper:

Socialism means:

Coal at less than \$1 a ton;

Steady work for all who want it;

Bread at 2 cents a loaf;

Trolley rides at 1 cent a trip;

Gas at 15 cents per 1,000 cubic feet;

Oil at 2 cents a gallon;

Sugar at 1 cent a pound;

A journey from New York to San Francisco for \$1.00;

Medicines and medical treatment free;

Rent reduced one-half;

Shorter hours of work;  
Wages—all you earn.

Now it so happens that political economy teaches a thing, or two, which runs up against promises and theories underlying the promises above expressed. The wages of a workingman, this political economy teaches, are the workingman's share in the products of his labor, and this his share depends upon his own price in the Labor Market. The more there are of him, and the cheaper it is to supply him with the necessaries of life, the cheaper is he himself, in other words, the lower are his wages. It follows that \$4.00 a ton coal means mighty low wages for the miner, and \$1.00 a ton coal still lower. It follows that 2 cents a loaf bread, 1 cent a trip trolley rides, 15 cents per 1,000 cubic feet gas, 2 cents a gallon oil, 1 cent a pound sugar, \$1 journeys between New York and San Francisco mean a small wage for bakers, trolley men, oil workers, gasworkers, sugar workers, railroaders, etc., in short, low wages, with resultant unsteady work. The fact has been seized by the fraudulent protectionists, and twisting it to suit their purpose, they have pretended that high prices stand for high wages, and that high wages mean a large share of the product of Labor—a fraudulent statement for the reason, as above stated, that Labor's share depends, not upon prices, but upon the supply and demand of itself in the Labor Market. It follows, accordingly, that to demand simultaneously higher pay and lower prices is an absurdity, and, consequently, when *Better Times* and its ilk advocate both they but stand (or sprawl) with both feet in their mouths—the attitude of the so-called Socialist party, and why it is justly called the Bogus Socialist party.

The Socialist Labor Party is aware that the economic reasoning presented above is “mud-slinging,” a “calling of names,” “vituperation,” etc., etc., if not even a “*Daily People Lie*.” But such is our unregenerate nature that we persist in our evil ways, despite the fact that we are being told that 300,000 voters were gathered under the *Better Times* Socialism, while the Socialist Labor Party Socialism barely gathered around its standard 50,000 voters.

Perverse S.L.P.!

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