

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 254.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1908.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## SETTLED? NO; ONLY BEGUN.

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**W**ITH a complacency that puts one in mind of the complacency with which capitalists sit back in their chairs and indulge in some quiet chuckling at the “impotence of Labor,” the business and professional interests, that run the so-called Socialist party, are declaring that the Unity Question is settled.

“Settled”? No; only begun.

During the last eight years, scores upon scores of men joined the Socialist party, never knowing of the Socialist Labor Party, and never, therefore, knowing just what it was they joined. Their joining of the S.P. brought them into contact with the Socialist Movement. Protectionists first demand a protective tariff from the Government on the plea of the “infancy” of their industry. The implied inference is that, after the respective industry has ceased to be “infant,” the tariff prop may be removed. When the “infancy” period is over, the protectionists, having fastened their clutches on the Government, insist that the tariff prop continue. So with the business and professional men in the S.P. National Committee. At first the claim was that the S.L.P. was food too solid for “beginners.” With that, justification was sought for a party of “broadness.” When, however, the new recruits ceased to be “beginners,” the same professional and business interests were confronted with a new problem—the problem of keeping the blinkers on the “beginners” and keep them dwarfed to a “beginners” status. The problem was difficult. Calumny of the S.L.P. was resorted to in all manner of underground ways, and lures were held out with the rattle of prospective big votes to some “popular” Presidential candidate. All this notwithstanding the evidence increased of there being a tangible element in the S.P. that was no longer at the “beginners” stage, and with many of whom, having become acquainted with S.L.P. literature, the slanders against the S.L.P. ceased to

have weight. This growing and alerter element in the rank and file were pushed in the right direction. Conditions were pushing them:

First, the panic. The panic was the external manifestation of years of capitalist iniquities. The inevitable crash came, with the inevitable result—widespread suffering on the part of the working class. The prospect of a Socialist Movement presenting a continued divided front to the masses implied the prospect of loosing the panic opportunity;

Second, and as a consequence of the first, the number of those were increasing who refused to join the Socialist Movement “so long as it was divided”;

Third, the Anarchist scare. This scare has reached its semi-acute stage in these days. Its fully acute stage is at hand. But, long before even the semi-acute stage set in, it was casting its shadow before it. The scheme was obvious from the start—to involve the Socialist Movement in the broil, and then have both jumped upon.

Under such circumstances, DUTY gave the command. The S.P., held by the throat by what the independent *Warheit* {*Wahrheit*?} correctly calls “Business Socialism{,}” did not obey the command. The S.L.P., being a self-governing body, stood upon no ceremonies of etiquette. It obeyed the command given by DUTY. It issued the invitation for Unity. How deadly to “Business Socialism” the S.L.P. is transpired from the conduct of the S.P. National Committee. They, the head of the “broad,” the “autonomous,” the “anti-Popery” S.P. did not dare to consult their rank and file. Disfranchising them from a word in the matter the “Business Socialists” of the S.P. National Committee refused to confer.

Such a state of things is a “settler” of many things, but it is not a settler of “Disunity.” On the contrary. Whatever is honorable, whatever is true, whatever is intelligent in the S.P. will rise in revolt at such an action. No honorable, no true, no intelligent Socialist will care to face the proletariat of the land in the pending national campaign—with the industrial panic driving the workers to Socialist meetings, and with the capitalist politicians persecuting Socialists under the pretence of prosecuting dynamitic Anarchists—and be confronted with the cry: “Why do you not unite!”

The S.L.P. can face the cry. Its answer is ready. It was ready to unite. The S.P. would not; would not even allow its members a chance to express themselves.

“Why?” will be the natural question that would follow.

Disunity is not settled. The issue of Unity is just started. “Business Socialism” has furnished a new test to the Socialist. The Socialists will be found united—presenting a united front to the capitalist parties. Bogus or “Business Socialism,” will be on the opposite side, contributing by its division to the capitalist furor against Socialism—and making hay while the sun of the political campaign lasts. Professional Socialism or Laborism, is essentially a business affair. Campaigns offer chances.

The path to Unity is now clear. Unity will be effected. And when effected the field will lie strewn with prostrate “business” candidates; shattered “business” editors; and the debris of the “business” schemes concocted against the storm-center of the Socialist Movement in the land—the indestructible, the Fighting S.L.P.

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Uploaded January 2010

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