

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 9, NO. 91.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1908.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

AND NOW COMES BESSIE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A BALTIMORE lady, whether “spinster, maid or matron”, the witness stateth not, who signs herself Bessie Bainbridge, announces that what ails our people is that they are “ruled by class legislation”; the lady illustrates her point by explaining that “one of the prime causes of the French Revolution” was this very class legislation.

That’s genius, the real article. Plodders beat about for causes; folks of talent produce lengthy and labored essays on the subject. Genius, like the lightning that comes out of the East, illumines East, West, North and South at one flash and unconsciously. Bessie’s genius revolutionizes not the science of history only, it revolutionizes all science, or scientific methods. It may be called the synopsis of science.

Away with heavy medical tomes dealing with cholera, appendicitis, whooping cough, gastritis, etc., etc. What ails the patient is “disease”—presto the field is clear.

Away with dissertations on burglary, larceny, forgery, polygamy, infanticide, etc., etc. What ails these people is “crime”—there it is in a nutshell.

Away with investigations about train wreckages. What ails these trains is “collision”—Can anything be plainer?

Away with books on spelling and grammar, and the bother about teachers. What ails school children is “ignorance.”—Why, Esperanto itself is not simpler.

Bessie marks an epoch in the evolution of the human mind. As to sociology, once a tanglefoot affair, a path is cut wide and straight across it.

Just say: “Class legislation shall be no more!” and wiped out are the classes from which these conflicting and despotic legislative acts proceed; wiped out are the class interests, which, grafted upon the classes, are reflected in legislation to match; wiped out are the habits of thought, which, like weeds in a marsh sprout from the

soil of existing classes.

And here are the Socialists, falling out among themselves upon methods and tactics, and wasting their time when the thing is so simple.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded March 2010

slpns@slp.org