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EDITORIAL

POPULISM YCLEPT SOCIALISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN its issue of the 17th of this month the Milwaukee *Social Democratic Herald*, Congressman Berger's organ, publishes a list of "Socialistic Proposals." Two, among the lot, deserve notice.

One provides: "State government to advance loans to settlers for use for agriculture, market gardening, dairy or stock raising purposes. Such loans to be issued upon fixed or installment mortgages upon the farm at a low rate of interest. Borrower to have the right to repay the loan partly or wholly at any time, or in twenty installments."

No one at all acquainted with Socialist literature will fail to recognize in this demand a chip from the magnificent heap of ruins that Marx made of Proudhon and his bank.

Governmental money support is of two kinds—

One kind is that which the large labor employer in power has the power to give unto himself. It is called by a variety of names—"subvention," "subsidy," "loan," etc., it always becomes a gift without recall. Such support, needless to say, is useful to the donee. It is a "short cut across lots," whereby he places himself in short order in possession of the lump capital that he otherwise would have to squeeze drop by drop from his wage slaves.

The other kind of governmental money support is that which the small labor employer, who, therefore, is out of power, requests be doled out to him by the large labor employer in power. Such support, if at all secured, only fastens a millstone around the neck of the "beneficiary." All the ramifications of the law of Exchange Value work towards rendering such support an illusion and delusion that pervert the beneficiary's angle of vision, and turn him into a squirrel in a wheel, ever moving, never getting further.

The other proposal reads:—

“Enact a law granting every wage worker over 60 years of age, who has earned less than \$1,000 a year and has been a citizen of the United States for sixteen years at least, a pension of not less than \$12 a month for the rest of his or her life.”

Tho’ seemingly upon a different subject this second proposal is like unto the first. It is the expenditure of 51 words to express that which can be expressed in 6—the poor-house for old proletarians. This proposal matches the first. Noses-to-the-grindstone small farmers, starvation pensioned pauper workers are differentiations of the same thing.

If this is the Socialism Berger is to advocate in Congress, then he and the thing will be roundly laughed at. Populism survives to-day only as antique ruins. The country has outgrown the thing. The Populistic era accomplished this much for our people. It enlightened them upon the map of the Future—either Socialism or a return to Feudal Lords and serfs.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org