

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 118.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## THE CAMPAIGN ACADEMY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**N one respect the present political conflict between the two old parties is up to and above the usual mark of excellence. Never more so than this year are the opposing leading capitalist candidates furnishing such matchless arguments to direct the working class straight so that it avoid the rock of pure and simple politicianism and the opposite rock of pure and simple bombism; never more so than in this campaign are these political standard-bearers of capitalism furnishing evidence of the all-sufficiency of the proletariat in deciding the country's fate.

What is all this clatter between Dix (Democrat) and Stimson (Republican)? It matters not which of the two is right, their joint argument demonstrates that the worker is exploited by the employer; that without the worker the employer could not live; that the employer is a criminal; finally, that the employe has it in his power to right the modern ills.

What is all this clatter between Judge Baldwin, the Democratic candidate for Governor in Connecticut, and Roosevelt on the score of the latter's speech in New Hampshire? It matters not whether Roosevelt quoted Judge Baldwin correctly, or whether Judge Baldwin quoted Roosevelt correctly, the gist of their joint arguments is that under capitalism the worker is no free agency, he is bound to sell his labor-power at the price of distress, and the purchasing capitalist, availing himself of the distress, purchases under conditions that virtually outlaw the worker?

What is all the clatter in Ohio between Judson Harmon, Democrat, and his Republican competitor for the gubernatorial chair? It matters not which tells the truth and which does not, the fact that leaps forth from the Ohio clash is that, unless the workers have strong economic organizations, their political power is vain; and unless they use their political power class-consciously, their economic bodies will be torn with their employers' dissensions.

What is all the clatter between “Regulars” or “Stalwarts” and “Irregulars” or “Insurgents” in the Mississippi Valley? It is not of the least consequence whether the latter bring falsehood home to the former, or the former to the latter on the subject of the “Interests.” That which is distilled through their joint debates is that any day the proletariat of the land should take it into its head to “handle the issue” themselves, that day there will be no “Interests” to distract the Nation, and co-operation will insure peace.

Let no worker who can at all spare the time fail to attend the meetings of both the old capitalist parties. He will find these meetings veritable Lyceums of political and economic information; he will find them veritable emporiums of facts that are priceless; he will find them veritable depots of disinfectants to purify their minds from the infectious side-shows of the Prohibition and the so-called Socialist party;—in short, he will find them a quarry that supplements the preachings of the Socialist Labor Party, and the S.L.P. alone.

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Uploaded November 2011

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