

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 220.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## SHADOWS AHEAD.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**S**UMMING up the organization, and the men who compose the organization in charge of the Roosevelt presidential boom, the New York *Evening Post* of January 22 said:

“Briefly, an organization was formed and heavily financed to place Roosevelt in the running. Of its intent and methods we may judge by what it has set about doing. The aim was to create, by the lavish use of money and all kinds of artful appeals to the disgruntled and the expectant, the appearance of a ‘spontaneous’ demand for Roosevelt in various parts of the country. There was to be cleverly engineered a self-moved uprising of the party for Roosevelt, which would compel him to yield his personal wish not to be a candidate. And we have duly had the carefully prepared voluntary ‘demonstrations’ in Missouri and Illinois, in Ohio and West Virginia and elsewhere. The bombs which the Roosevelt dark-lantern men had painstakingly planted were exploded according to an agreed program.

“And who are the men, with what motives, that are now working desperately to pull down the President, in order to set up Roosevelt? There are, of course, exceptions among them. A few are of the sort who still cling to their old ideals of Roosevelt. But the majority of those who are supplying the funds and instigating the plot are financiers of the standing of George W. Perkins and Dan Hanna, with some rich men under indictment; while former officeholders and eager candidates are numbered by the hundred. Look up the record of many of the men who are now clamoring for Roosevelt as the greatest citizen of the world, and you will find that they, are politicians out of a job, postmasters dismissed for cause, or district-attorneys whom Roosevelt himself was on the point of ousting for drunkenness, and whom President Taft refused to continue in office. And every little fellow who wants to be sheriff or county clerk, every man among the bigger fry who is ambitious to go to the House or Senate, and who feels that under present conditions he has no chance, is prompted to add his voice to the irrepressible and unforced demand of the people that Roosevelt be a candidate once more.”

Describing the organization, and the men who composed it, with the object in

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view of landing Louis Bonaparte on a virtually autocratic throne, Karl Marx said in his *Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*:

“Under the pretext of founding a benevolent association, the slum proletariat of Paris was organized into secret sections, each section led by Bonapartist agents, with a Bonapartist General at the head of all. Along with ruined roués of questionable means of support and questionable antecedents, along with the foul and adventures-reeking dregs of the bourgeoisie, there were vagabonds, dismissed soldiers, discharged convicts, runaway galley slaves, sharpers, jugglers, lazzaroni, pickpockets, sleight-of-hand performers, gamblers, procurers, keepers of disorderly houses, porters, literati, organ grinders, ragpickers, scissors grinders, tinkers, beggars—in short, that whole undefined, dissolute, kicked-about mass that the French style ‘la Boheme.’ With this kindred element Bonaparte formed the stock of the ‘Society of December 10,’ a ‘benevolent association,’ in so far as, like Bonaparte himself, all its members felt the need of being benevolent to themselves at the expense of the toiling nation.”

Theodore Roosevelt may or may not be nominated this year for President. If nominated, he may not be elected. If, however, he is nominated and elected, then the passage cited above from the *Evening Post* will be found a gentle prelude to articles that will follow of the nature of the passage quoted from Marx. Whichever way events turn, such expressions as those used by the *Evening Post* are records of shadows that are being cast ahead.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded February 2013

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)