

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 233.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1912.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

IT WILL NOT DOWN!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE circular entitled *The Press in the Class Struggle*, issued against the *Volkszeitung* by German members of and the Socialist party in this vicinity, and published last week in English in these columns, is, of itself, a notable affair, and, as such, amply instructive. Nevertheless, there is vastly more significance in that document than the document alone, as an isolated fact, would reveal.

In order fully to appreciate the evolution of things that the document, *The Press in the Class Struggle*, owes its existence to in this year of grace, another document must be recalled; a document that was issued almost thirteen years ago. It was issued by the Socialist Labor Party, and was entitled "Sign Posts That Will Have to Guide the Party for the Safe-Keeping of a *Daily People*." That document is reproduced to-day.

As thirteen years ago, now, thirteen years later, the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* is exposed as a center from which members of the party to which it is attached are calumniated.

As thirteen years ago, now, the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* is convicted of denying those whom it calumniates an opportunity to defend themselves. It is afraid of the truth.

As thirteen years ago, now, the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* is denounced on the ground that its nefarious policy is dictated by the financial support it derives from the Civic-Federationized and Militia-of-Christized alleged Unions.

The Cause, in whose behalf, thirteen years ago, the article "Sign-Posts" was written will not down.

The correct Union position of Socialism is bound to assert itself. After thirteen years of "triumph" the *Volkszeitung* now finds itself confronted, from among its own present surroundings, with the identical slogans of thirteen years ago, and a virile, indestrucible S.L.P. from without.

The stalwart German members of the Socialist party in this vicinity, together with their affiliations outside of the city, will have easier sailing than did the S.L.P. thirteen years ago. The labors of the S.L.P. these thirteen years have told. True, many a grievous experience may be in store for the German S.P. stalwarts now in rebellion. As did the S.L.P., they may have to grieve over deserters whom the flesh pots of the *Volkszeitung* Egypt may bribe away; as did the S.L.P., they may have to fight under a thick cloud of calumny and backbiting; as did and does the S.L.P., the German S.P. stalwarts will discover that the common interests of the S.P. privately owned press of all languages will solidify that press against them.

All that matters not.

The Cause for which these German S.P. members have taken the field is one that will not down and is bound to sweep all the *Volkszeitungs* off the field.

Party editors must owe their office to the Party, be responsible to it, removable by it.—So long as that is not, such corrupt practices as the *Volkszeitung* is guilty of with alleged Unions, de facto bulwarks of capitalism; or that the *Call* has been convicted of with Traction Interests, whose cash the paper slatternly subjected its editorial utterances to, will be inevitable, will crop up perennially. No deeper malignity is imaginable towards Socialist integrity than the malignity of “Business” under the cloak of Socialism.

Political Socialism without Economic Socialism is no Socialism at all. Socialism demands class-conscious Unionism. In the absence of such demand and practice the “Socialism” of a political body is no better or other than the trader’s bait in his show window.

The Great Cause, in whose behalf the S.L.P. has nailed its colors to the foremast, will not down. That Great Cause must prevail. All the factors of Society, the evil as well as the good, make for its triumph. Its followers and supporters will yet be legion—ripened into activity by the very stupidity of its foes, a stupidity which the document of thirteen years ago, read by the light of that of this year, and that of this year, read by the light of that of last year, attests to be Bourbonic, as Bourbonic as the stupidity of Capitalism itself.

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Uploaded January 2013

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