

THE PEOPLE

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THE SILVER ISSUE

By Daniel De Leon

There are in London two special organs of the financial interests of Great Britain, the *Statist* and *Economist*. Both oppose the remonetization of silver and, speaking with the authority of the class which they represent, confidently predict that the international silver conference will prove a failure. The former says:

“Bi-metallism will not be adopted because this country (England) will not change its monetary system. It is the great creditor country of the world. It has lent to other nations immense sums, which are payable, capital and interest, in gold; and it will not risk the complete fulfillment of the contracts it has entered into by introducing any other standard than gold.” This defines very clearly the issue between the bi-metallists and the mono-metallists, between the silver and the gold men, throughout the world. It is, as we have repeatedly stated, an issue between the debtors and the creditors; a capitalistic issue, not merely national but international, in which, however, the working people of any country have as little interest as in protection or free trade. The creditors want a monetary standard the value of which will be constantly increasing, so that they may ask more of the products of labor in payment of the sums due them. The debtors want a monetary standard the value of which will be constantly decreasing, so that they may give less of the products of labor in payment of the sums they owe. The first want “more pork in the dollar,” the second want “less pork in the dollar.” Whichever succeeds, the man of toil, the fellow who feeds the pig and makes it fat, will be lucky if he even gets the same small quantity of pork for his pains. The real question for him is not as to whether the full-fledged capitalists, who have no debt but many small debtors, or the aspirant capitalists, who have many debts and a few great creditors, shall be privileged to rob him. The real question for him is how to get rid of capitalists of all sorts, who do rob him; in other words, how to get rid of the robber capitalistic system, with its fluctuating money standards of gold, silver or paper, by which the plunder of

labor is measured in its division among the thieves, and how to establish an honest socialistic system, with its fixed labor standard, by which shall be measured the actual value of the products of toil; so that he who works may receive the full value of his work, and he who idles may starve to his heart's content.

[Transcribed by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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