

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 32.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1900.

ONE CENT.

SECOND EDITORIAL

## SODOM AND GOMORRAH INSINUATING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**he capitalist class will wreck a railroad, scuttle a steamer, or fire a building to achieve its ends. It will shoot down, it will murder and kill to advance the price of its commodities. It will declare war in order to dispose of its goods. Nothing, not even what it now considers the most sacred, is allowed to stand in its way. Whatever menaces it is ruthlessly swept aside. No compunction being shown in the matter of extension, none will be or is shown in the matter of defence. The only thing that threatens capitalist domination is the growth of the Socialist Labor Party throughout the world, and in order to defeat the party, capitalism will resort to any means.

Public sentiment against, public fear of, or blind hatred towards us and our work would have a tendency to make the up-grade we now travel still harder and steeper. Our class-enemies would strike down every king that ever reigned in order to lay forever the spectre of the coming revolution. They would even arouse the blind and the weak among the working class, in order to have them commit some "outrage" that could be turned against the working class party.

The *Morning Telegraph* in one of its famous rag-time editorials proceeds to develop certain ideas relative to the use, to its class, to which king murders may be put. The article is flippant, but it is also venomous. It says:

"The time will come when good men will be deterred from accepting positions as kings because of the dangers attached to the job, and the unfortunate nations addicted to the use of kings and emperors will find themselves ruled by strong hardy men, who, along with their lack of fear, will bring to their governing certain undesirable traits that will make the ruled long for the days of the kings assassinated."

Thus speaks Tammany, thus flow forth the corruption, the brutality and the ignorance of the official organ of our local Sodom and Gomorrah.

The vicious-minded man persuades and degrades by insinuation. In all words

he seeks to allure, and yet keep his train hid so that he himself may escape. The *Telegraph* has acted as fuel to the minds of thousands of weaklings, and its covert filth has contaminated more minds, and consequently been responsible for more physical degradation than all the bawdy-house literature ever advertised by Sam Austin of the *Police Gazette*.

It betrays its ignorance, and it also makes plain its object. It is not because a man is a king, or a prince that an infuriated maniac shoots him down. Carnot, Elizabeth, Humbert did not fall because they were crowned. Here in America we have a Russell Sage who has his Norcross, and a Carter Harrison who has his Prendegast. There is a protest, a wild mad cry against a most inhuman system in all these acts. It is the abused dog turning to bite at the stone which hits him, and allowing the hand that throws the stone to go unnoticed and unharmed. The powers of government in the hands of the capitalist class allow a Harrison, Sage, or Humbert to be the instrument of oppression, but it is not against these individuals that the Socialist Labor Party fights. It recognizes the source of the might, and it will not rest until it has turned the government and the control of production into a grand machine for the elevation of the human race and the protection of all men even to the weakest and the lowest.

In Holland, when it was necessary to arouse a pro-British feeling, a poor boy shoots off a blank cartridge at the Prince of Wales. Capitalism must have its "thrills and horror" to nerve it up to its work, as the sot must have his additional dram to quiet his broken and shattered constitution. No one can imagine that the attempt upon Wales was anything more than a cheap advertising scheme, or that anything more was expected of it than to arouse sympathy for his nation in its fight against the Boers. Instantly the whole press commenced to shout on the point, and while the shouting went on, the slaughter in Africa continued, and the hospital outrages developed to such a point that they stand to-day as the model of what a capitalist government can do in its attempts to kill off the soldiers that fight to uphold it. It out-Algers our own Alger.

Russell Sage is a monarch in his way, and he acted like all monarchs when the bomb was thrown. Carter Harrison was not a monarch, yet in the city of Chicago he had powers that few monarchs have or have had. Here Capital is King, and the Sages and Harrisons sit upon its throne. In Europe capital is king and Carnot and Humbert sit upon its throne. We of the Socialist Labor Party, know that in order to dethrone to a purpose, we must first dethrone capitalism.

Those strong men who will strike terror to the hearts of all and make them wish for the days of the kings assassinated rule in this country. They rule because capitalism is most highly developed here. They rule, and the *Telegraph* is their faithful man of all work. We do not fear the strong men here, because we know when we clip the political locks of these Sampsons they dwindle into shorn and shivering nonentities. As we know the source of their strength, we know the source of our own. When we see the *Telegraph* advocate lynching, and covertly, the suppression of our street meetings, we comprehend perfectly that we have the giant by the short hairs and all we have to do is mercilessly use the shears.

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

Uploaded October 7, 2001 — Updated June 2, 2005