

DAILY PEOPLE

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ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

MANY POINTS IN ONE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMONG the many valuable letters brought to this office by yesterday morning's mail, the following deserves special mention:

New York, Dec. 7, 1902.

To the Editor of *The People*:

Sir: At the meeting of "Big 6" to-day, which I attended, the following resolution came up for discussion:

"Whereas, Funeral and out-of-work benefits are among the advantages to be derived from membership in this organization; and,

"Whereas, Members of militia organizations lay themselves more liable to death and injury through the performance of their duties, thus greatly increasing the financial risks of this organization; therefore, be it hereby

"Resolved, That the monthly dues for said members of militia organizations are hereby increased to ten dollars (\$10) per month, and that henceforth the initiation fee for members of militia organizations shall be one hundred (\$100) dollars."

Somebody moved to lay the resolution on the table. The President then interposed saying that "the Union ought to go on record as being opposed to any such resolution, as No. 6 was always loyal to the Constitution and to the militia." Motion to lay on the table was put and lost. A man then made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded. Three or four men were on their feet wishing to debate the matter, but this fact notwithstanding, the President refused to recognize them and he put the motion. The motion was defeated. I never saw such subserviency to capitalist interests before, nor such highhanded parliamentary procedure on the part of a presiding officer, nor meek submission on the part of the men,—no, not even in No. 6's meetings.

To realize the movements of fakirdom, one must become a class-conscious Socialist; and I should also invert the proposition and say that in order to become a class-conscious workingman one should be well acquainted with the movements of fakirdom.

CONVERTED.

With facts piled mountain-high it has been proved in these columns that the pure and simple Union is not a wheel in the mechanism of the Labor Movement, but is a

wheel in the mechanism of the institution of Capitalism. The facts mentioned by our correspondent, though cumulative, illumine the pile of evidence. What the militia is everybody knows, and everybody also knows that all the claims set forth about an anti-militia attitude being in violation of the Constitution are false claims, claims that falsify the Constitution. In fact, so far from a hostile attitude to the militia being unconstitutional, the reverse is true. The present attitude of capitalism on the militia reads into the Constitution that which the Constitution expressly excludes. What, then, does it mean when in these days a President of a Union can go unchallenged in declaring the “Union’s loyalty to the militia”? It means only this: The Union is an upholder of capitalism, and its officers are but labor lieutenants of the capitalist class.

Again, across the face of the resolution, “Cowardice” is written. What its purpose was is evident, and yet it dared not say so. It sneaked around. It sought to give the militia a stab in the back, while kissing it, and the stab was to be placed upon “business principles”—the raising of the dues was explained by the “liability to death and injuries” that the members of the militia (poor dearies!) are exposed to, in the “performance of their duties”! Did ever sneak-murderer sneak more creepingly towards his victim? Not in the essence merely but in the form the pure and simple Trades Union is capitalistic. It upholds capitalism, and it demeans itself like a coward.

The additional point of the brutality with which the pure and simple labor lieutenant of capitalism runs his organization is the last, tho’ not least, point that our correspondent brings out. The flannelmouthed labor fakir, in chorus with his understrappers—the tyrant and the tyrannized—utters anathema against “the tyranny of the Socialist Labor Party.” Watch the crew! If an understrapper, he plays the spaniel to his Union’s tyrant; if not an understrapper, he is the tyrant himself. In either case it is the genuine article—tyranny of the most galling nature, a tyranny that stands rebuked by the manly dignity of the S.L.P., which can brook neither domination nor spaniels.

As capitalism proper daily furnishes ammunition to the theory of the Socialist Labor Party, so does the fakir-led pure and simple Trades Union, the menial of capitalism, daily furnish the Party with ammunition for the Party’s tactics.