

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 4, NO. 29.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

TALKING OUT OF SCHOOL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MR. D.M. Parry has again been saying things. This time it was at the session of the convention of the Furniture Association of America. Mr. Parry's talks are valuable. The trustified, plutocratic capitalists have learned the knack of using speech only to conceal their views, their fears and their purposes. Mr. Parry is not yet "there." He belongs to the class of "our daddies" capitalists: the original thing, almost too green to burn; consequently he says things when he talks. He says what he means; he says what he feels; "his tongue touches where the tooth aches." In this last speech it touches two aching teeth, not in his own head merely, but in the collective head of the capitalist class. Mr. Parry declared that "there is no safe dependence to be placed in the action of legislators whose political life depends upon labor votes," and later on he drew in dark colors the calamities that would befall the country if the workingmen were to go on a universal strike. These are two burning points with capitalists generally, only the upper ones don't say so.

The "dependence" of the legislators on labor votes is a galling fact to the capitalist class. The far-sighted ones see in that a possibility, aye a probability, of their rule being put an end to at any time; the equally far-sighted on that line, but blind-as-a-bat on another line, imagine the danger can be obviated by depriving Labor of the suffrage and making the political life of the legislators dependent exclusively upon the idle vote. The matter is the subject of frequent discussions among the idle or capitalist class. Mr. Parry blurts out the secret whisperings of his fellow idlers.

Likewise is the matter of a "universal strike" the subject of serious discussion among the idle or capitalist class. But this subject presents itself to these gentlemen as one of the two horns of the dilemma. If they allow Labor to enjoy the suffrage,

they may be knocked down with the ballot; if they deprive Labor of the suffrage, the pent up steam of just discontent may burst the boiler of the capitalist engine: a universal strike would be an ugly thing to contend against: in the turmoil capitalism could hardly hope to escape. Once the electric spark of Labor's solidarity has welded all the branches of Labor into one mass and a universal strike, what would become of the idle class?

It is to be hoped that Mr. D.M. Parry will speak often. His speeches are about the only opportunity one has to-day of getting a peep into the councils of the idle or capitalist class.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded January 2007