

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 7, NO. 254.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1907.

ONE CENT.

REPORT

## GLEANINGS 'LONG THE ROAD. {1}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**K**ANSAS CITY, MARCH 8, 1907.—There's nothing like being "on the road" to "find out." The *Daily People* office is a focus of information, all right. Into the office pour letters from all parts of the country. So alert are *The People's* correspondents that the paper can hardly do justice to all they send in. All this notwithstanding, 'long the road one has fairly to cut his way through a thick forest of interesting news. Here are but a few gleanings—so far.

In New Castle, Pa., I ran up against unexpected confirmation of W.W. Cox's theory, recently advanced in his reports to *The People* from the coal fields of Illinois, to the effect that John O'Neill is in league with the foes of Industrial Unionism. On his recent trip East to address Moyer-Haywood protest meetings, O'Neill was in New Castle. He struck the town some three or four days ahead of the meeting. Members of the iron, steel and tin workers' Union concluded to utilize O'Neill's presence in the interest of the I.W.W. Believing that, whatever his recent capers meant, they did not mean disloyalty to the principle that he claimed to uphold, these iron, steel and tin workers approached O'Neill with the request that, seeing he had several days at his disposal, he address their organization on Industrial Unionism. They said they would guarantee an attendance of at least 500 of their crafts men, and probably there would be double the number. O'NEILL REFUSED. The excuse was that the change of climate had hurt his throat. The men say his throat was in as good a condition as anybody's. He preferred to loiter idly around. O'Neill's silence was a more convincing argument than any the man could have delivered. It helped mightily to enlighten the men who saw O'Neill these many months whooping it up for Sherman. The men formed their opinion of the motive springs of a man who thus deliberately sought to deprive his own organization, the Western Federation of Miners of the Eastern Labor support that it needs in its

struggles out West, and vice versa. The effect was seen. My afternoon meeting was an earnest demonstration. A closed conference held in the evening at S.P. headquarters was, if anything, more effective.

As to Chicago, *The People* should keep there a well paid special reporter. The friends are willing; impossible, however, for them, having other work to attend to, to do even approximate justice to what is happening. A special reporter could be kept busy from “early dawn to dusk.”

The first question that I suppose will be asked is, What about the Sherman Headquarters, where, according to Sherman’s public utterances, the bulk of the I.W.W. is centered, with moneys rolling in from the “60,000 dues-paying members”? Upon good authority, honest and intelligent authority—authority from within, cross-questioned authority, the Sherman crew is “busted wide open”; Sherman himself (and forget not his “Hanneman is my name, Hanneman of New York”) admits he lies stranded high and dry. They are absolutely idle at his office. They get no mail. His *Industrial Worker* is gotten up with paper that the I.W.W. had paid for. That he may be getting money is quite likely. But from where? ’Tis not from membership. On the other hand, the headquarters of the I.W.W. look like a busy hive. From Trautmann down, they are kept busy. Admirable is the work they have done. Their mail is huge.

Most interesting are the developments in the camp that is the obverse to the camp of which Sherman’s camp is the reverse—the pure and simple political Socialist party camp. Where shall I begin?—Well, I have to begin somewhere—

The close mental, moral and “intellectual” affinity there is between the pure and simple bomb-ranter and the pure and simple politician-ranter is brought out in all its fullness in Chicago. The Chicago pure and simple political Socialist party is now doing, with regard to the imprisoned Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, exactly what the Chicago *Arbeiter-Zeitung*, a physical-force-only Anarchist publication, did and is still doing with regard to the unfortunate men who were judicially murdered in Chicago in 1887 and three of whom were falsely imprisoned—they are coining the sufferings of the workers into gold for themselves. At the recent Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone protest meeting in Chicago, the pure and simple Socialist politician Collins stated: “If you give Coope [the S.P. candidate for Mayor] 100,000 votes that

will set Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone free!” A riot immediately broke out at the meeting. The bulk of the large audience saw through the stupid deceit, and hooted the words; the pure and simple Socialist politicians applauded: an increase of their rapidly declining vote, the shrinking fig-leaf with which they cover their iniquities, means boodle and prospects of more. These speculators on the imprisoned victims of capitalism were so decidedly in the minority that Collins had to break off his speech in short order, and step down and out.

It is, however, with regard to their press that the S.P. and the shouters for bombs are most interesting to watch. The Anarchist *Arbeiter-Zeitung* is owned, through a mortgage, by whom?—BY A DEMOCRATIC POLITICIAN BRANDT; the S.P. *Daily Socialist* is owned by THREE CAPITALISTS—two Wallings and J.M. Paterson. These three capitalists have bought the expensive plant of the Worcester, Mass., *Spy*, a capitalist paper that failed.

Undeterred by the ill omen of raising their venture upon a plant with failure for its record, they are in for business at Labor’s expense—the business that “radical” capitalists are frequently seen ready to ply—the business of raising a pedestal for themselves and bossing things. In full masterhood of the paper, its capitalist owners hired “A.M. Simons, Editor” as they would hire a scrub-woman. They hired him, not because they think he can vocalize their unvocalized sentiments, but because they know that he will scrub as they dictate, and they are confident in this because of the plasticity that they noticed their applicant for the editorial scrub-womanship to be fitted with when he crooked before them the pregnant hinges of the knee that thrift may follow fawning. That the spineless S.P. should be so afraid of owning its own press as to allow itself to be owned by “their press” is nothing new. Nevertheless, connected with and flowing from these manipulations are a series of incidents valuable to watch, and droll to contemplate.

The machinations of “A.M. Simons, Editor” to secure the editorial scrub-womanship of the *Daily Socialist* by the grace of its capitalist owners has had for its immediate effect the rifting of the hitherto compact set of shyster lawyers and other “intellectuals” who hitherto bossed the Chicago Socialist party’s Tammany Hall machine. Those who are not in favor with the capitalist triumvirate realize that the bossing will henceforth be done by those who are in the good graces of the

triumvirate. This means a diminution of the only thing Socialism means to them. Hence—WAR! When men fight, war is tragic; when monkeys fight, war is clownish. It is so in this instance. Hitherto, the leading intellectual who decried the “Anarchistic language of the S.L.P.,” the “S.L.P.’s use of such terms as ‘Working Class’ and ‘Class Struggle,’” the “S.L.P.’s narrowness in not realizing that the ‘intellectuals’ and the middle class, not the stupid working class, are the ones to establish Socialism,” etc., etc., the “intellectual” who led in these views was a dapper lawyer, Thomas J. Morgan, later known to fame as “Tommy-I-I” from the fondness he entertains for himself. Now, Tommy-I-I is among the “outs” of the former compact set of bosses. “A.M. Simons, Editorial-Scrub-Woman” and his fraction are the “ins.” This has caused a veritable French Revolution sort of an upheaval in the mind of Tommy-I-I, with a resulting revolution in the gentleman’s language. At a recent meeting of the Cook County something Committee of the S.P., Tommy-I-I took the floor upon the subject of the *Daily Socialist*. Though his sight be not heroic, his language was. He said, among other things: {“}Shall we, the WORKING CLASS, tolerate such a thing!”—Tableau.—Those who remember George Eliot’s description in *Middlemarch* of the miser Featherstone’s illegitimate heir, as he stood “froglike” in his dead father’s hall, may picture to themselves Tommy—I—I in the panoply of “we the working class.”

Nor is this all. The Chicago S.P. furnishes other “horrible examples.” As is well known, “International Socialism” is on the lips of these Berger-Volkszeitungites as frequently as “Law, Order and Morality” is on the lips of the Thaw capitalist class. Now, then, a kind of conference took place recently among themselves at Schoenhofen Halle, upon the subject of unity with the S.L.P. Some innocents among them had brought up the matter. Thereupon, one Arnold delivered a speech, of which the following sentences may furnish a fit idea: “We, Germans, have the upperhand in the Socialist party, which consists mostly of Germans. To unite with the Socialist Labor Party would be to transfer the upper hand to the scurvy Irish cattle [Eirische Lumpenviegh].<sup>1</sup> We Germans invented Socialism. We must keep the upper hand.” How much like the language used in the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* of Nov. 15, 1903, “As to the Irish, they are corrupt to the marrow”!—Such “inventors

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<sup>1</sup> [Brackets in the original.—R.B.]

of Socialism,” however they may spout the Marxian motto: “Proletarians of all countries, unite!” of course refused to unite. Arnold is an A.F. of L. man.

There’s much more. This will do for the present.

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Uploaded August 2009

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