

# The People.

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EDITORIAL

## What's This?

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**he metropolitan press of last Monday contained a bit of information which, if true, would denote that the present General Officers of the Knights of Labor are in desperate straits, that they have degenerated into a band of brigands no better than those of Powderly's old regime, and that they are ripe to be kicked out.

The information is that, in sight of the approaching session of the General Assembly, the General Officers are in mortal fear of the delegation of D.A. 49, and that they are controlled by a particular dread of Comrade Daniel De Leon's being on that already sufficiently redoubtable delegation—redoubtable to ignorance, fakirism, dishonesty and rascality in any form. The information proceeds to say that, moved by this wholesome fear, the General Officers have trumped up charges against several Local Assemblies affiliated with D.A. 49, and propose to hold a sort of "kangaroo court" on the subject; notwithstanding several of the General Officers were in New York, where the Local Assemblies are located, these are said to be summoned to appear in Washington, and what with the distance and the expense of going there, the Locals are expected to be sentenced and excommunicated, virtually without a hearing.

To judge from other news items, D.A. 49 does not scare worth a cent, and last Sunday took up the gauntlet thrown at it. It elected a full set of six straight-out, uncompromising knights, Comrade De Leon among them, knights who do know what the Labor movement means, and who also know that the support of incompetent, scheming, traitorous and lazy officials by means of dues and charter fees is not part of the programme of the movement of Labor, though it may be part of the programme of the movement of Fakirdom. It seems furthermore, that on top of that D.A. 49 threw its shield over the assailed Local Assemblies, and appointed Comrade De Leon their counsel.

The metropolitan press does not always lie, and this may be one of the occasions when it reported truth. We hope, however, that its information was mistaken, and that the

Order of the Knights of Labor has not fallen again into the hands of a lot of pirates such as such unseemly conduct would brand them.

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

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