

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 285.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1908.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE CAPITALIST STATE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHAT'S just going on in Congress would be worse than time wasted if it is not watched, contemplated, pondered over and duly taken to heart. In the House of Representatives 390 Representatives from Congress Districts and Delegates from Territories are assembled. These, presumably, are the elite of capitalist intelligence, and in the main, they are so. Nor are they delegates from foreign, though sister, capitalist nations. They are the collective representation of one nation, one flag, and—one common purpose? No. Stop short of the purpose, as their antics must force one to stop.

For several weeks the main activity of these Representatives and Delegates has consisted in more or less clever parliamentary manoeuvres, conducted, between the main body of the Republicans, on the one side, and the whole body of the Democrats, on the other, so to outgeneral as to put the gag upon each other. Keeping in mind that the wages of the politicians come out of the taxes, and keeping, furthermore, in mind that the Working Class does not pay the taxes, taxes being paid out of that portion of the wealth that Labor produces but never gets, it being plundered from Labor at the very start by the Capitalist Class—keeping all this in mind, the conclusion is justified that the warring politicians in Congress are not “wasting the people’s money,” but are earning their wages by acting in obedience to the orders from the respective wings of capitalism that they represent, and in whose pay they are. This circumstance causes the conduct of the Congressmen to be a valuable flashlight into the secret heart of capitalist society, or the Capitalist State.

“Patriotism,” “Sacredness of the Flag,” “National Glory”—these are common terms on capitalist lips. On capitalist lips each of those terms is a lie. “Patriotism,” “The Flag,” “National Glory” are terms that imply unity of interests. Where there is

no unity of interests there can be neither patriotism, flag nor national glory. Only where true patriotism is absent, only where “The Flag” is a mock-auctioneer’s lure, only where “National Glory” is a mask—only there is unity of interests absent. Where unity of interests is absent, there, and only there, do the present parliamentary manoeuvres in Congress crop up. Their existence tells the tale. Capitalist society is a parody on both society and country.

The Capitalist State typifies war. The germ of the evil is not at first perceptible. In the measure that capitalism develops the incipient evil grows apace, until it becomes dominant. The Capitalist State is the product of class rule. The Capitalist State is the necessary weapon to subjugate an under class. Where there is an under class, there is, inevitably, rivalry among members of the exploiting class for the hide of the exploited. Sharks rend one another over their common capture. The Capitalist State is the Political State. It is fatedly a “bear garden.”

Impurities in the blood may long continue to riot undisturbed. The cause of the indisposition is not known. Fortunately for society, it is with society as with the body physical. The law of impurities drives them “to a head.” They then become manifest. Soon as manifest they can be intelligently dealt with. The impurities of capitalism are coming to a head—not the least ulcerous of these is the Political State, rotten-ripe for the lancing, rotten-ripe for the removal announced at the ballot box in the Socialist Labor Party demand for “the unconditional surrender of the Capitalist Class,” rotten-ripe for substitution by the Industrial State of the Working Class organized in integrally industrial constituencies.

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

Uploaded January 2010

slpns@slp.org