

Daniel De Leon

## **Editorial: Lo, Your Work!**

The condition of the Pullman workers, as truthfully described by Gov. Altgeld, should not awaken sympathy only. Men, women and children starving after only a few months' stoppage of earnings, notwithstanding the breadwinners among them had toiled for Pullman ten and thirteen years, and unable in their poverty to move away, is a sight that throws a thousand volts of electric light upon the work of the misleaders of labor that have hitherto acted as "leaders." It throws light upon what there is in the claim of that gentry that they were "making the people think." It throws light upon their claims for "common sense," and their habitual contempt for the preachings of Socialism.

The present sorry plight of the working class is attributable to no one cause more strongly than to the imbecility or corruption of most of the leaders it set up—the Gomperses, the Powderlys, the Fosters, the McNeills, the Arthurs, the McBrides, etc.

Instead of tutoring their followers upon the conditions that confronted them and the weapons they should resort to for freedom, they contented themselves with drawing their salaries, putting on airs and getting themselves into the papers; and when remonstrated with by the Socialists their answer was uniformly: "We are making the people think."

Instead of warning their followers against the collapse and want and dependence in store, they lulled them in security and belabored the Socialists with epithets of all sorts, especially with lacking "common sense."

*Daniel De Leon*

We now know how they have “made the people think,” and we now know that their “common sense” means to find the workers in the ditch and leave them there. The Pullman strikers, not to mention others, serve as commentaries.

The work of really making the people think is now left for the Socialists, who have proven themselves to be alone entitled to credit for real common sense.

Let the toilers clear the path in their unions for the Socialist agitator, and when the labor corruptionists or the “pure and simpler” comes around let the toilers point to the distress in Pullman’s town, in the mines and the factories, with the words:

“Lo, your work! We want none of your common sense!”

*The People*, Vol. IV, No. 23. Sunday, September 2, 1894

## **Lo, Your Work!**

*A De Leon editorial transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the  
Official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.*

*Uploaded November 2002*