

The People.

VOL. VI, NO. 17

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1896

PRICE 3 CENTS

SECOND EDITORIAL

Our Warning Heeded

BY DANIEL DE LEON

With joy for the sake of the cigarmakers, we record the fact that the fakir-born proposition to hold this year no convention of the trade has been defeated. With its defeat, is likewise quietused the scheme of handing over the functions of the convention to fifteen picked ignoramuses and corruptionists. The warning we addressed to the cigarmakers in our issue of the 21st of last month has thus been heeded. With them we rejoice.

But this first victory gained, it must be followed by persistent and arduous work from now on until the convention meets, and from that moment on until it closes. Many a union of the cigarmakers is discussing the advisability of joining the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance—among them the Chicago union of Perkins himself, the President and leading blockhead of the organization, a fact that may explain the nervousness, feverishness and wildness of himself and his; in many instances leading New Trade Unionists have been elected as delegates to the convention over the heads of conspiring fakirs; and in many others the rank and file have been thoroughly awakened to a realization of their condition by the figures and facts we have published touching the treasury of the International union, and which demonstrated the imbecility of Labor seeking to fight Capital with Capital. All these causes combined give just ground for the expectation that the coming convention of the cigarmakers will be memorable; that the pack of blockheads and ignoramuses who have held sway to the union's misfortune and the capitalist's joy will receive a thorough overhauling and that the organization will be switched off the track that leads perditionward and on to the track that leads to the emancipation of the proletariat.

The times are no longer for sugar pills and the tactics of poltroonery. To the intelligent delegates that will meet in the oncoming cigarmakers' convention we commend the utterances of the recent convention of the Socialist Labor party in endorsing the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance:

It pointed out the folly of the former policy of seeking to propitiate the corrupt

leaders, the folly of a labor organization's expecting success without it recognizes the fact that an irrepressible conflict rages between Capital and Labor and the necessity of overthrowing the capitalist system, and finally the duty of the class-conscious proletariat to carry into all the trade organizations that revolutionary spirit without which the solidarity of the working class and its emancipation are idle dreams.

Let the cigarmakers' convention guide its steps by the light thrown out by these scientific principles. Its labors will then be a blessing for its fellow toilers in all trades, and the songs of joy of these will be such as to drown the combined howls of the capitalist class and of the labor fakirs who will be flying out by the windows.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded June 27, 2003