

# The People.

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FIRST EDITORIAL

## TRYING TO COVER UP THE SUN WITH A BLANKET.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**R**eaders of THE PEOPLE are aware of the tussle that has for some time been going on in Pittsburg, Kan., between Socialists, who demand free speech, and the city authorities, who sought to repress free speech, that is to say, Socialist free speech.

These authorities did not object to Salvation Army “free speech.” That was all right. The Salvationists preach contentment on earth, leaving the field free for the capitalist brigand; the Salvationists call the sufferers’ attention away from where they are, and promise glories hereafter. Such “free speech” suits the brigand class of Capital to a “t”.

But Socialist free speech is a horse of a different color, and that color suits not Messrs. Capitalists. Socialist free speech calls attention to things on earth; it calls the attention of the sufferers to their rights, aye, to their duties; it makes of them men, not poltroons; it teaches them how to redress their wrongs; it teaches them to bring heaven down on earth, and begin the enjoyment of Paradise here. That sort of free speech has a hook to it. That sort of free speech interferes with the comforts of the class that wants to live on the backs of the workers and laughs in its sleeves at Paradise. That sort of free speech won’t do.

Accordingly, after the Pittsburg authorities had tried illegal arrests, brow-beating and roughianism, and yet were worsted all along the line, they passed a new ordinance, intended exclusively to keep the Socialist speakers off the street on Sunday. This is the ordinance:

### ORDINANCE No. 426.

An Ordinance to prohibit the use of the public streets of the city of Pittsburg for certain purposes therein named, on the first day of the week commonly called Sunday.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Councilmen of the City of Pittsburg;

Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person to make or participate in the making of any political speech, argument or address; or to make or deliver any address or lecture on any social, political, mechanical, scientific or other secular subjects; or to engage in the advertisement of any medicine, article, invention, or of any goods, wares or merchandise; or to give or engage in the giving of any slight of hand performances; or to give any exhibition of athletics or gymnastics; or to give or engage in the giving of any concert, or theatrical entertainment on any of the public streets, avenues, alleys, lanes, parks or other public grounds within the corporate limits of the city of Pittsburg on the first day of the week commonly called Sunday.

Section 2. That any person who shall violate any of the provisions of section one of this ordinance, by doing any of the things therein prohibited on any of the public grounds within the city of Pittsburg on the first day of the week commonly called Sunday, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval by the Mayor and publication in the Pittsburg *Daily Headlight*.

Passed and approved this 12th day of April, A.D. 1899.

J.W. BREWER, Mayor.

Attest: E.W. ANDERSON,

City Clerk.

Thus again the cloak of Religion is used to conceal the Devil's hoofs and forked tail. But what will it avail? Suppressed on Sundays, the Socialists will be all the more active on the other days of the week. And what is more, Capital, that grinds on Sundays as it does on other days, will, on Sundays, furnish material for all the more convincing Socialist addresses on Mondays.

The Pittsburg municipal representatives of that thoroughly theistic capitalist class will find out that they have tried to cover up the sun with a blanket.