

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 245.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## TELL-TALE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**O**NE can not turn but he will find the evidence of how little the Working Class counts in the estimation of the Capitalist Class. When the latter speak of the “nation”, they mean the ruling, the capitalist portion of the nation; when they speak of the “people”, they have in mind only the plundering portion of the population. It has gone so far that when they address “you”, they are addressing, and can not possibly be addressing any but the class of the confiscators of Labor’s product. A striking and latest illustration is furnished by the flaming advertisement of a certain magazine article that is just appearing in all the capitalist dailies. The article advertised is entitled “New Methods of Office Work”. The advertisement in question has this passage:

“How the machine is ousting the expert and the armies of clerks in modern office work. YOU may save money and time and gain efficiency by reading the article . . . YOU will make a good investment of your quarter of a dollar, anyhow”.

Who can the “yous” be? Could they be the 254,880 bookkeepers of the land, or the 639,127 clerks and copyists, or the 885,007 of both together? Can the “yous” be this “army of clerks” that is being ousted? Can it be they who are recommended to invest a quarter of a dollar in the magazine as “a good investment” whereby to “gain efficiency”? Can it be them the advertisement addresses in the gladsome note that it strikes? Obviously not. To convey to this army that is being “ousted” the information of their doom—such is not, can not be the purpose of a capitalist concern. Such information, addressed to such a class, only proceeds from Socialist sources, and then it is called “inflammable”, “un-American”, “atheistic”, “subversive of law and order”, etc. Such information, addressed to the victims of the privately owned machine means enlightenment to them; it is a summons to join the ranks of

the Socialist Labor Party, and place the machine in the hands of the workers and out of the hands of the shirkers.

Of course, the advertisement is addressed not to the victims of the machine, but to those who profit and will profit by it. Of course, the “yous” are not the army of the clerks ousted and to be ousted, but the small number of capitalists who are doing the ousting. Of course, the “yous” are not the Working Class but the Capitalist Class. That such a call should appear in the public press, the press supported mainly by Working Class readers, is a fact of vast significance. It tells how absolutely the Capitalist Class ignores the Working Class as a factor in the nation.

In the days of old Rome’s system of slavery, the slave was thought so little of that, as the pictures dug out from the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum attest, he was allowed to be present at the most intimate transactions of his masters. It mattered not what he or she saw or heard. She or he did not count. We are “there”. The advertisers in question care not how openly they announce the schemes by which they profit and at whose expense the profit is done. It matters not whether the Working Class hears the schemes or sees them. The Working Class is not expected to understand them. The Working Class does not count.

Deep and wide has the cleft grown between the Working Class and the Capitalist Class.

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

Uploaded November 2007

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)