

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 132.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## CREATING NATURE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**HEN the committee of wives, sisters and daughters of the hungry unemployed in London applied to Lord Balfour for redress, the best they could draw from the lips of the Prime Minister of the Empire was a statement to the effect that, as things were, they were natural. Upon this utterance we should be prepared to see the colleges endowed by our millionaires to enter the "Capitalist" as a new genus in the category of animals, and endow a new professor to lecture upon that special department of Natural History. No series of lectures could be more thrilling.

The professor of the Natural History of the Capitalist should have parallel tables, one showing the gradual evolution of man through the several geologic periods, and the accompanying revolutions that mark each epoch; the other table showing the development of the capitalist, together with the revolutions that accompany each stage of his development. It would then appear that the present animal "Hungry and Unemployed Workingman" and the present animal "Capitalist" descend from a common stock, the "Self-employing" animal; that then a volcanic eruption took place by which one set of "Self-employers" confiscated the land and all other property from the other set; that thereupon appeared the dispossessed and former "Self-employer" in the evolved form of a new animal, "Workingman," and the dispossessing "Self-employer" in the evolved form of a baby "Capitalist." The lecturer will then proceed to trace the succession of geological revolutions among the newly evolved "Capitalists"; how sets of them turned against other sets and by a series of manoeuvres continued the process of confiscation, thereby increasing the numbers of the Workingmen, and decreasing the number of the Capitalists, while rendering these ever richer and more powerful, until popular famine developed into a social institution hand in hand with the

“national wealth” of the animal “Capitalist.”

Up to this point our endowed professor would have easy sailing; from there on his difficulties would begin to gather. Nature has a way of never stopping. Our professor would find himself confronted with the alternative of either being true to Nature, and, continuing the evolutionary process, show the inevitableness of the approaching geological revolution, when the animal Workingman, having become a vast and enlightened class, proceeded to organize himself into a curious form called the Industrial Workers of the World, with which it got ready to turn the tables on the animal “Capitalist,” and to resume possession, and abolish famine; our professor would have to do that or—would have to take the Balfour tip, and improvise a new Nature: a Nature that would stand stock-still: a Nature that, having developed to animal “Capitalist,” found its forces exhausted and rested for all time to contemplate its perfected work.

No doubt the Capitalist Class will be equal to the undertaking. There is nothing too absurd or too cruel for “powers that be” to scheme in the effort to perpetuate themselves. But neither are there any failures more pathetically sublime than the failures that accompany such preposterous efforts. Such will be the Balfourian attempt to create a new Nature.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded October 2008

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