

DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

OUR SIXTH ANNIVERSARY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ON this day, six years ago, Sunday, July 1, 1900, the *Daily People* was born. The coward sees the danger and the trouble before, the brave man after it is passed. The starting of the *Daily People* was an act of intrepidity. Cowards quail before a similar attempt; the Socialist Labor Party undertook the bold deed, and carried it triumphantly to success. Not like the present French Republic, when it celebrated the anniversary of its existence, with the foreign foe still in armed possession of several of her cities, as pawn for the war indemnity, does the *Daily People* to-day celebrate its sixth anniversary. The day is celebrated with the *Daily People's* plant absolutely free of the heavy mortgage indebtedness that it started with. The last note upon its plant was paid a month ago. The *Daily People* has now no monetary debt other than to the membership of the Party that owns, administers and controls it, obedient to whose collective thought it moves, and whose collective labors of thought and action raised and maintain it. On such an occasion as this, well may the S.L.P. rest arms for a moment and contemplate its work in all its colossal proportions.

The *Daily People* is a monument of the fruitfulness of ORGANIZATION—only organization could have triumphed over the obstacles that impeded its birth, and the perhaps greater obstacles that the degenerating effect of capitalism periodically threw in its way during these six years, in the shape of conspiracies and intrigues by folks, who, much as the obscure wretch that sought immortality by burning down the Temple of Ephesus, sought “distinction” in the attempt to tear down this beacon of the Social Revolution in America.

The *Daily People* is a monument of the blessedness of ABNEGATION—only that loftiest altruism, that freely lays upon the altars of a great Cause the very life-blood of its inspired devotees, could have sustained the drain and strain upon them

of the expenses needed to preserve this tribune of the people, and to free it from all pecuniary obligation to capitalist firms.

The *Daily People* is a monument of the resistlessness of FORTITUDE—only the staunchest of convictions, planted upon the soundest of knowledge, and watered by the clearest of information is able to resist victoriously the violent storm of hostile principle that beat down upon it, aiming at, often threatening to submerge it.

The *Daily People* is a monument of the effectiveness of DEMOCRACY—only democratic rule—the rule that steers clear both of the rock of mob decentralization and of the rock of autocratic centralization—only such staunch democracy could have unified diversity of opinion in a body necessarily, and happily so, of such strong individualities as the S.L.P. membership, and welded the individual opinion of each into a mighty force for all.

The *Daily People* is a monument of the efficiency of COLLECTIVE LABOR—no one or two, nor a dozen, nor several dozen individuals, located in a few localities, could have produced the intellectual power that breathes through every issue of the *Daily People*. Such a manifestation is possible only through the combined labors of a large number, large enough to deserve the name of collective labor, and spread throughout the land, broadcast enough to reflect, not a personal or local picture, but a picture of national proportions, such as the occasion demands.

Justly proud—as all may feel proud who have performed conscientious labor—justly proud of his great work in the realm of literature, and, therefore, in the realm of history, the Roman lyric poet frankly sang the praise of his own production. Presuming to translate those noble lines into English, they run:

“I’ve raised a monument more lasting than brass;
“Loftier than the regal stature of the pyramids;
“A monument that neither the tooth of the rain-fall, nor the blast
of the North Wind
“Is able to wear away, nor yet the numberless
“Sequence of years, nor the flight of Time.”¹

Such a monument—the first and, so far, only English Socialist daily in the English speaking world; such a monument—at once an impregnable fortress from

¹ [Horace, *Odes*, III, 30, 1—R.B.]

which, untrammelled, to bombard the capitalist robber-burg, and from which, unfettered, to spread broadcast and daily the constructive thought of Socialism; such a monument has the Socialist Labor Party raised in the *Daily People* to the Cause of its devotion—the emancipation of the Working Class of America from the yoke of wage-slavery, the Cause to which the S.L.P. has pledged its honor, its sacred word and its means.

Well may the S.L.P. glorify its work in the lines of Horace on this the sixth anniversary of the *Daily People*. In keeping with the purity of its exaltation, the S.L.P. invites its kindred elements throughout the land to join its ranks and share its just pride.

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