

Daniel De Leon

Editorial: Why Do You Tarry, Brothers?

The Pittsburgh *Kansan*, one of the leading populist papers of Kansas, recently gave facts and figures to show that it is only a matter of time when the small farmer must go. It showed how the small shops and factories were being wiped out, and how the small farms in the west were being succeeded by the bonanza farm. It pointed out that wheat can be raised profitably at 19 cents a bushel and other cereals in proportion on bonanza farms, and that in South Dakota steam plows, steam threshers and other improved machinery had made it possible to work a 60,000 acre farm at less cost than sixty small farms of 80 or 160 acres each. It mentioned the fact that foreign visitors to that section were informed that machinery was now in process of construction that would reduce the price of wheat production to 12 cents a bushel. And it closed its argument with the conclusion “the farmer, the last remnant of a middle class, will be eliminated from American society; to prevent the permanent division of our citizenship into masters and servants the only remedy applicable is public ownership of all natural and artificial means of production and transportation.”

Nor is this all!

In commenting upon this excellent exposition of our economic development, of the fate of the small farmer, and of the Socialist programme as the only salvation for our people, the Junction city, Kans., *Tribune* says that “the *Kansan* strikes the

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key-note” of the situation, and repeats approvingly that “*the farmers, the last remnant of the middle class, will be eliminated from American society; to prevent the permanent division of our citizenship into masters and servants the only remedy applicable is public ownership of all natural and artificial means of production and transportation.*”

Here we have the politico-economic premises and the conclusions of Socialism lucidly stated and completely endorsed by two able western brothers and colleagues—Brother Buchanan of the *Kansan*, and Charles Davis of the *Tribune*. No populist cobwebs about free coinage impede their vision; no Pefferian Utopianism about saving and keeping the middle class and middle class methods of production turns their judgment topsy-turvy. They know what is up; and they know what is coming.

This being thus, why not unfurl in the Sun Flower State the banner of Socialism, and preach there on the political stump the only gospel of emancipation? This being thus, why do you tarry, Brothers Buchanan and Davis, why are you not in the same camp with us—active members of the Socialist Labor Party, of the American division of the world’s army of emancipation?

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*A De Leon editorial transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the
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