

The People.

VOL. VI, NO. 7

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1896

PRICE 3 CENTS

FIRST EDITORIAL

A Waning Superstition

By DANIEL DE LEON

Who can watch the development of the demand for more money without admitting that man progresses?

The first form of the demand is “more money.” The wants of the bankrupt “reformers” are translatable into money. They need money, and can’t get it. Hence they yield to the optic delusion of imagining that the fault lies with money, little knowing that the fault lies with the puny machinery of production, which disables the middle class from producing as plentifully and cheaply as the large capitalists. This is the stage of Weaversim proper.

The second form of the demand is no longer “More Money.” After having chewed the rag of “more money,” it presently begins to percolate through the “reformers” wool that they would not be any better off even if the Government did nothing but print or coin money from sunrise to sunset, unless the money actually got into circulation. Just as soon as this profound discovery is made, the “More Money” cry is changed into the “Good Roads” cry and similar devices to make the money circulate. This stage is the stage of Coxeyism.

It is not unlikely that after having chewed this rag for a while longer the fundamental truth will finally burst upon our “reformers” that the issue is not one of money at all; that money is but a reflex of the social system of production, and that happiness or wretchedness has its roots there; that it matters not how much money there may be in circulation unless the land and the whole machinery of production is owned by the people; and that when this has come about, the “money evil,” the “money power” and all such silly phrases used by the “reform” world will become unmeaning because money will disappear.

We guess the nation is at the threshold of this important discovery. That having outgrown the whooping cough of the “More Money” cry, and the subsequent measles of Coxeyism, it will address itself to the work of placing into the hands of the people the

people's machinery of production, and thus end the RULE OF IDLENESS and introduce the RULE OF THE WORKERS.

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

Uploaded June 13, 2003