

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1.—NO. 169.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1900.

SUNDAY 2 CENTS.

EDITORIAL

GIVE THEM ROPE!

By DANIEL DE LEON

The Erie, Pa., *People* is an organ of “Organized Labor.” To the knowing that is ample information. The knowing know that that means an organ of vicious and mischievous ignorance, and retailer of balderdash, interspersed with calumnious observations upon the Socialist Labor Party as a “Union Wrecker,” etc., etc. To the unknowing, these strictures upon our lovely Erie “contemporary” may sound severe, if not harsh. For the benefit of the latter, and the innocent merriment of the former, the following facts are culled from our “contemporary’s” December 1 issue.

On the fifth page of that issue, the Socialist Labor Party is referred to as a “scab” concern with but “one ambition, to get a ‘knock’ at organized labor.” On the identical page, separated by only two columns from the article in which these compliments are paid to the Socialist Labor Party, appears a column article headed “A Hint to Bosses.” In this article, extensive citations are approvingly made from one D.N. Burke, one time United States Consul at Malaga, Spain. In this letter Mr. Burke describes the conduct of a Malaga employer, Don Carlos, towards his employees; he shows how happy the latter were, thanks to the paternal care taken of them by Don Carlos, and he closes, saying:

“The operatives had no labor organization. They needed none. Through this law of kindness the business of the mill was conducted. Discord, dissatisfaction, discontent, unrest and strikes were not on the program of this mill.”

Can there be a completer case of self-hanging? The organ of organized labor that assails the Socialist Labor Party as an enemy of labor organizations may be thought to be simply uninformed; when, however, such an organ publishes praiseful articles, that proceed from capitalist political sources, upon how blissful workingmen can be when they are reduced to the state of stalled oxen, and how

superfluous the “union” then is,—when such an organ does that, it has then tried, convicted and executed itself as a mouth-piece, not of organized labor, but of the Organized Scabbery in the pay of the capitalist class.

These “organs of Organized Labor” are a positive disease; they are a leprous outgrowth on the body of the Labor Movement. Fortunately, they are so stupid that they, themselves, regularly bring along the rope with which to hang them, and, not infrequently, as in the instance of this precious Erie, Pa., *People*, do the hanging themselves.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded October 2005