

DAILY PEOPLE



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EDITORIAL

SALUTATORY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Few modern enterprises, if any, carry as distinctly as does the newspaper enterprise that mark that is characteristic of the present stage of social development,—a mark, that, to those who can see, denotes that an old system has reached its end, and a new must be stepping upon its heels, and must speedily supplant it.

The past long dominates the mind of the present. Despite the striking character of modern industrial enterprises, the mind is still dominated by their character of old, when, in their smallness and large numbers, they were private at all points. Having been private concerns then, their modern mammoth, monopolistic supplanters continue to be looked upon as private. Due to this *vis inertiae* of the mind, the pregnant fact that mammoth concerns of today are seen the sole purveyors of food, transportation, light, heat, clothing, etc., frequently even of enjoyments, generally escapes due appreciation.

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Facsimile of the front page of the first issue of the *Daily People*, July 1, 1900.

supplanters continue to be looked upon as private. Due to this *vis inertiae* of the mind, the pregnant fact that mammoth concerns of to-day are seen the sole purveyors of food, transportation, light, heat, clothing, etc., frequently even of enjoyments, generally escapes due appreciation. Old habits of thought, acquired under immature economic conditions, blind the mind to an appreciation of the pregnant fact that modern industries now work for the public, that they employ the public, that the public depends upon them; in short, that the character of industry stands transformed: once a private affair, it has developed into a public ministry. That an industry which supplies the community with ice is a public ministry may Old habits of thought, acquired under immature economic conditions, blind the mind to an appreciation of the pregnant fact that modern industries now work for the public, that they employ the public, that the public depends upon them; in short, that the character of industry stands transformed: once a private affair, it has developed into a public ministry. That an industry which supplies the community with ice is a public ministry may escape the superficial observer. But it cannot escape even the sluggish eye of the most superficial that the industry which supplies the community with information is radically different from a private affair. The newspaper industry, accordingly, brings out in clearest light the point of development reached. As with the industries that supply the community with the material needs of life, those that supply it with food for the mind have reached that point where virtual monopoly exists: the capital needed to operate them is not within reach of the masses. Their functions have become public and, therefore, sacred; yet the means to operate them have remained private, and, therefore, left them subject to private whim, caprice and interests.

To overthrow the social system in which so perverse and brutifying a contradiction is possible, and to establish that social system in which the public ministry of production, transportation and distribution shall be placed in the hands of the public, the Socialist Labor Party raised its standard in 1890, and kept it ever since in the front ranks, beating its way forward, undeterred by difficulties or opposition. That same undaunted spirit now sets up its daily paper to hasten on the day when the work, initiated by the Revolutionary Fathers, shall be completed, and economic dependence being abolished, freedom may reign in the land.

The capitalist press, obedient to the principle of its ownership, performs its ministry upon lines identical with all other capitalist enterprises,—for private gains: “it is there to sell.” The DAILY PEOPLE has a message to deliver to the

working class of America, upon whose back a brigand class is riding it to cooliedom.

The DAILY PEOPLE will deliver its message undeterred by open foes, undiscouraged by hidden ones, and unaffected by any wiles of cajolery. It will deliver its message, never compromising with truth to make a friend, nor ever withholding a blow at error lest it make an enemy. Conscious of the arduous task before it, and also conscious of the certain ascendancy of its Cause, the DAILY PEOPLE unsheathes its sword, gives the scabbard to the enemy, and enters the lists.

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

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