

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 2, NO. 108.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1901.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## A DEAD GIVE-AWAY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**C**LARION is the second, third or fourth alias of a paper published in Haverhill, Mass., as the local organ of the polynomial party best known under the alias of “Kangaroo Social Democracy.” In its issue of the 12th instant, that paper says:

“The day may possibly come when, the principles of Socialism having been unequivocally adopted by an old party, we can conscientiously let our organization lapse and vote with a party of another name.”

He who has a “second choice” in politics has no “first choice”: experience has established that fact: “first choices” are in such cases mere blinds: the “second choice” is the real choice of such people, in behalf of which they abide their time, and secretly work, while pretending to have a “first choice.” So, at all points, lies the land with those who start a party and yet expect the day to come when one of the “old parties,” which their new party was {has?} “started to fight,” will have “unequivocally adopted its principles.” Such new parties are mere blinds, their “principles” mere sham: the party of real affection, to which the hearts of such people really turn, is one of the “old parties,” that one which is expected to do the “unequivocal adopting,” in behalf of which they abide their time and secretly work. In all such instances the converted party has never been the old; it ever was the new that was transformed.

If such is the case with parties operating on the same social field; if, even in such cases, political dishonesty is the mark of the “new party,” how much more so in the case of parties that in the very nature of their claims must operate on hostile social fields! The Social Democracy, under whatever name, claims to operate on the field of the Social Revolution: both the old parties are products of capitalism. The very idea that either of these could change is preposterous: the very posture of expectancy that they may change, and of readiness to give up the “new party,”

denotes corruption.

The *Clarion* has given away its case. It has let the cat out of the bag. Its party is not a party to emancipate the working class, it is a temporary hut, under which are gathered a lot of politicians and labor skates, trying to make believe they are setting up a party for real action, but ready at any moment to give up the shanty so soon as they have obtained the bribe they are on the hunt for. So soon as that is obtained, then the “old party,” the one that shall have done “the handsome thing,” will be declared to have “adopted unequivocally” the principles of their own; then their “revolution” will have been accomplished.

Of course, such confessions are superfluous in the instance of the Kangaroo Social Democracy. And yet, superfluous though they are, they deserve notice. The political party that is to overthrow Capitalism and enthrone Socialism, that is to oust the idle Capitalist Class and seat the Working Class,—that political party is built of material more lasting than that which holds itself in readiness to abandon it.

And that political party is the Fighting S.L.P.

[N.B.—The copy of the *Clarion* is in this office for inspection.]

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

Uploaded July 2006