

EDITORIAL

## “THE LABOR COMBINE” AS A MENACE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HERE is an expression, frequently found on the lips of men who claim to be Socialists, but are opposed to the Socialist Labor Party, that, closely looked into is a boomerang which reacts upon and cracks their heads. The expression is “chimera,” as applied to the Socialist Labor Party.

The term “chimera,” hurled at the S.L.P. from these sources, admits by implication three things.

First, it admits that the principle pursued, and dubbed “chimera,” is good and desirable, but unattainable;

Secondly, it admits that the organization which pursues the alleged “chimera” is straight-forward;

Thirdly, it admits, as a consequence of the above, that those who pursue Socialism, and not a chimera, are simply sailing under the false colors of Socialism.

Let those who, at first blush, consider such reasoning too straitlaced, place under the microscope any of the elements that pronounce the Socialist Labor Party chimerical. And what will be found?

It will be found that these elements declare the Democratic and Republican parties hostile to the working class and yet log-roll with these parties, allowing their candidates to run on the tickets of any and sometimes of both the parties of capital.

It will be found that these elements, while talking “class struggle,” cater to the middle class.

It will be found that these elements, while talking “wage slavery,” advocate methods and ideas that would affect the system of wage-slavery no more than a mustard plaster could raise a blister on a wooden leg.

It will be found that these elements, while charging corruption to the capitalist

government, themselves have governments wreaking {reeking?} in corruption.

It will be found that these elements, while imputing to the capitalist politicians empty rhetoric to cheat the workingman voters with, themselves deal in nothing but fly-paper to catch the labor vote.

It will be found that these elements, while claiming to aim at the emancipation of the working class, have for the workingman no other use than as voting cattle, and consider it unfit.

In short it will be found that these elements fly in the face of every principle and tenet of Socialism. Accordingly, it will be found that these elements hold substantially with the capitalist class, which declares Socialism a chimera, and that these elements differ from the capitalist politician only in this, that the capitalist politician is honest in that he repudiates Socialism, while they are dishonest searchers for pennies under the guise of seeking the Socialist Republic.

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