

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## TOWARD CLARIFICATION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**Y**ESTERDAY'S mail brought the below letter, to which we take pleasure to give editorial place and answer:

Scowhegan, Me., July 31, 1905.

To the Editor of *The People*.

Dear Comrade:—Although I am of the type you term Kangaroo, yet I desire to express my personal sentiments on a question which I believe should no longer be delayed—that of a thorough unification of the Revolutionary Socialist forces in the political field. I believe the Socialist movement has now reached a stage of development where an equitable basis of unity would mean a mighty revolutionary force, that would greatly hasten the day of working class emancipation from the slavery of capitalism. As there is but one Proletariat we need but one Party to represent the Proletarian interests. How a unity could be brought about, having for its motto, “No Compromise with the Common Foe”, and a program of principle and tactics that would forever keep the eyes of the worker trained in the class interest of the working class, is a question for discussion and should be thoroughly discussed at once in order that a better understanding could be reached by the rank and file of both parties. I don't for a moment question the economics or tactics of the Socialist Labor Party, but I don't for a moment believe that either party will abandon the field as long as it can retain a foothold in any state in the Union. And if solidarity is to be accomplished by a war of extermination it means years of wasted effort that ought to be directed against the common enemy, the capitalist class. And do not the interests of our class demand that the real Socialists get together as speedily as possible and join hands and march in solid phalanx against the citadel of Capitalism? I believe division in the political field will retard the growth of the Industrial Workers in the economic field, especially in localities where party feeling runs high and prejudice against the Socialist Labor Party overcomes what should be their better judgment. Political unity would remove the last vestige of doubt in the minds of some about the new Industrialism being an S.L.P. scheme to disrupt the Socialist party, and thus political unity would become a powerful factor in the overthrow of Gompersism.

Yours for solidarity and a Proletarian Revolution,

W.G. HAPGOOD.  
Socialist Party candidate for Governor, 1904.

Our correspondent starts with an error; but we are delighted to see him finally land upon his feet.

It is an error to imagine that the term “Kangaroo” embraces him. It does not—neither him nor any of the men whom Eugene V. Debs drew into the Movement. The term “Kangaroo” applies only to a certain element now in his party. It applies to the stock-holders of the New Yorker Volkszeitung Corporation—a collection of usurious money-loaners, pluck-me-store keepers, lawyers who wanted jobs from pure and simple unions, placemen of Gompers craft bodies, and other such refuse of bourgeoisdom—who, together with their employes and other non-stock-holding but kindred elements, foregathered in a Bowery saloon on the night of July 10, 1899, and Kangaroo-like went upon their hind legs, pronounced themselves Section New York of the Socialist Labor Party, “deposed” all the Party officers, tried to capture *The People* by attempting to invade *The People’s* office at midnight, but found the Party prepared for them and were kicked down stairs with bloody heads for their foolhardy impudence. It is this element, together with their kindred “intellectuals” and A.F. of L. placemen and expectant coffin beneficiaries outside of the city, all of whose existence was made more and more impossible within the S.L.P., and who took up the cry issued from the above named Bowery saloon,—it is that element that received and are designated by the term “Kangaroo”. None other. This element has sought to stretch the designation over the Debs element, and in that way cover up their own tracks. Had our correspondent been on his guard he would not have been duped in the matter. The matter has been repeatedly and fully explained in *The People*.

As to the necessity for the “unification of the revolutionary Socialists” and for the “getting together of the real Socialists”, our correspondent is absolutely correct, and, what must be still more pleasing to him, his ardent wishes are about to be realized, in fact are being realized now. The late Chicago convention spanned the chasm; by throwing the bridge upon the western pier (the Western Federation of Miners and A.L.U.) and the eastern pier (the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance), the Chicago convention built the solid road over which the “real Socialists”, as our

correspondent felicitously puts it, are marching now to join hands, and are joining hands in indissoluble fraternity—a fraternity too indissoluble to be any longer impaired by the dust of calumny with which the Kangaroo element, being essentially a Gompers or Civic Federation element, has sought to keep the Socialists estranged.

We say that the Kangaroo element is essentially a Gompers, or Civic Federation element. This is no figure of speech. Calumny alone can not build. What calumny can and does do is to plant itself upon a wrongful “principle”, and then satisfy its own perverseness by giving the Wrong a chance through the vilification of the Right. The alleged “principle” upon which the Kangaroo planted himself and is still planted, is the fallacy that the Political Movement of Labor should have and has nothing in common with the Economic or Union Movement of the workingman. Two are the tests of intentional Wrong behind the mask of such “principle”. The first is that the intentional wrongdoer can not choose but be found with his foot in his mouth, his conduct is bound to contradict his “principle”; the second test flows from the first, it consists in echoing brazenly the lies of the class that it pretends to mean to fight. The Kangaroo answers both tests, and strikingly, too.

As to the first we have seen the Kangaroo from the instant of the issuing of the Manifesto, howl against the proposed Industrial Union, declaring that it would impair their party. How could it if the political movement of Labor should not meddle with the economic?!?! It is obedient to this test that we find the whole Kangaroo privately owned press solid in sneering at the Industrial Workers organization, and echoing against it all the vilifications and misrepresentations, aye, even the hopes of the Civic Federation.

As to the second test, which flows from the first, we find the Kangaroo of the land, now unmasked, openly sing the praises of Belmont’s A.F. of L. The *New Yorker Volkszeitung* of yesterday, August the first, furnishes the latest and most brazen illustration of this edifying performance. It approvingly quotes its pet Ben Hanford as saying: “The fact must never be lost sight of that the A.F. of L. puts forth every effort to organize the working class”!!!!—the body that stands documentarily convicted of entering into contracts with employers not to organize competing shops, as the Tobin Boot and Shoeworkers does; the body that votes down anti-militia

resolutions, as did the Hanford Typographical Union in national convention assembled, and thus winked at, if it did not condone the gatling-gunning of Unions on strike; the body whose Cigarmakers Union keeps out of its fold the bulk of the members of its trade, in short, and to sum up, the body whose President, the Vice-President of Belmont, officially boasted of his organization having broken the Pullman, or railroad strike of 1894—that body is sought to be palmed off by the Kangaroo as the strenuous seeker after the organization of the working class!!!!

The test is complete. The false principle held the Socialists estranged, and calumny deepened the cleft. But Truth, even tho' crushed to earth, will rise again. In this instance the Truth was never allowed to be crushed to earth. Its colors were held up, unterrified by the Fighting S.L.P., and that Truth has asserted itself at Chicago. A political movement of Labor is but the political exhalation of the material fact of an economic organization. He who would have true Socialism must stand upon true Unionism. The two are inseparable. Upon the Labor-betraying A.F. of L. no "real Socialists" can stand. Such can stand there only temporarily, until they discover their error. And when they make the discovery they speedily part company with the bogus, and turn to and proceed to build up a bona-fide Union—as was done at Chicago—a solid foundation for the unification of the real Socialist forces.

The solid Socialist phalanx that our correspondent is eager to see formed is forming now. The road has been smoothed for its formation. East and West, North and South, THE REAL SOCIALISTS WILL BE UNITED—ARE UNITING.

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

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