

The People.

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EDITORIAL

Off Goes Another.

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Another paper, that tried to sail the waters of the Social Revolution, has just sunk below the surface, and forces upon us, by its fate and career, the duty of commenting on the moral which it points and the tale which {it} adorns.

We do not exactly know by what name to designate the wreck; it had so many, one for almost every copy which it printed. Originally it appeared in St. Louis, subsequently somewhere in Tennessee, where it was printed in its multitudinous names. As the word "Labor" appeared with greatest frequency at its head, attached to the name of some town or State, the sentiment of whose organized labor and Socialists it claimed to voice, we shall call it *Labor* for short.

Labor was constructed upon three principles that were carefully chosen so as to be the exact opposites of corresponding principles on which THE PEOPLE is built.

THE PEOPLE maintains that, to teach Socialism, scientific economics and sociology has to be taught; undeterred by the giddy and pampered taste of the public, it undertook the task. *Labor* said "Nay." It proceeded on this head from the same principle that conceited ignorance always does; it jeered at science; sneered at learning, and sought to teach Socialism by shouting "Hurrah for Socialism!" "Three Cheers for Socialism!" etc., etc. The unthinking, being more numerous than the thoughtful, *Labor* spread its net for their support, confident of a large haul—but the fry for which it fished slipped off.

THE PEOPLE maintains that the Social Revolution needs men who are in intelligent opposition to the ruling system; it aimed from the start at organizing this intelligent opposition, and consequently, had no use for and incurred the welcome hatred of the soreheads. *Labor* did not know the difference between intelligent opposition and soreheads. The noise of soreheads deceived it; it thought they were legion, and did not know that soreheadism is all froth and no substance. It deliberately

gave them asylum, thinking to gain thereby ample support, and to profit by “the mistakes” of THE PEOPLE. Every intellectual or moral crook who ran up against the solid organization of the S.L.P., and was lashed for his crookedness, or believed himself or herself unappreciated, ran to and was received with open arms by the columns of *Labor*. The columns of Labor rang with anathemas against the party. Every pretentious ignoramus, whose windbag we punctured, shouted “Boss!”; every liar, whom we convicted, shouted “Czar!”; every schemer, on whose trail we camped, yelled “Pope!” Thus *Labor* went on, swingingly, as it thought, until the hard fact struck it amidships that the very quality that makes the sorehead disqualifies him for effective work.

THE PEOPLE maintains that labor “celebrities” who are wrong, are more dangerous than capitalist adversaries; consequently, it sails right into such “celebrities,” undeterred by the “following” they may have. “All wrong,” said *Labor*, and illustrated its position by throwing up its hat with the unthinking at John Burns, for instance, and having nothing but praise for this misleading lightweight, who said, “I am a Socialist, but will go with anyone who will give me something.” The subscribers who, attracted by this course, were expected to flock to *Labor*, never flocked. A few lightweights “approved” it or “condemned” THE PEOPLE, and there *Labor’s* profits ended.

The three cardinal principles in question and their opposites were submitted to an ample test, net results—THE PEOPLE flourishes; *Labor* sinks.

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

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