

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 42.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1900.

ONE CENT.

FIRST EDITORIAL

WHO IS “US”?

By DANIEL DE LEON

Said Mr. Bryan in his recent Indianapolis race-course speech:

“Against us are arrayed a comparatively small but politically and financially powerful number, who really profit by Republican policies.”

Whom does “Us” stand for in this passage?

Can the word stand for fully 52 per cent. of our population,—the working class? Impossible! No doubt the elements arrayed under the banner of McKinley are dripping with the blood of wage earners of the land, squeezed to death by low wages in factories, and not a few shot down with either actual Gatling guns or the equally murderous Gatling guns on paper. Nevertheless, “Us” can not here stand for these. It can not stand for these in the mouth of a man who uses the word on a platform on which to his right and left, he is flanked by gentlemen whose hands are equally clotted with the gore of the wage-earning class. Whatever “Us” stands for in Mr. Bryan’s mouth, it can not stand for the class that his right-hand companion, Adlai E. Stevenson, has cudgeled into pulp in the mines of Illinois and his frying into corpses in the sugar refineries that he holds stock in; nor can it stand for the class that his left-hand companion, Gov. Thomas of Colorado, denounced like a pick-pocket for daring to demand living wages in the silver mines of his State, and refusing to work for less. To stand arrayed against that class is a charge that does not fit the Bryanistic mouth when it tries to characterize McKinleyism. On this subject honors are easy between Bryan and McKinley. “Us,” accordingly, cannot mean us.

Whom then does it mean?

It means, self-evidently, the outs in the capitalist world. It means the capitalist concerns, who not being in control of the chief Executive of the land, can not compete at an advantage with these capitalist concerns that are in possession of the chief Executive.

It means that the fleecers of the working class are divided among themselves, one set arrayed against the other, one “US” against another “US,” as to which shall appropriate the lion’s share of the hide of the wage-earning class.

In this conflict between the two sets of “US,” the working class has no concern other than to let the two rend each other like swine, and then step in at the finish, and stave in the survivor’s head.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded May 2005