

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 7, NO. 221.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1907.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

CONTINUOUS CHRISTMAS FOR POLITICIANS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WASHINGTON despatches announce that the President is preparing a message to Congress in which he is to recommend the enactment of a law whereby a valuation of railroad properties shall be had, the cost of operation shall be determined, and the two items shall be used as a basis for determining rates. The proposition is nothing short of a plan to ascertain the amount of watered stock, which so greatly inflates the “capital invested” as to make the dividends seem trifling, and reduce the basis for rates down to the capital actually invested. Such a proposition sounds positively “revolutionary,” in point of fact it is neither revolutionary nor anti-revolutionary: it is merely a scheme by which politicians may enjoy a Christmas that shall be continuous, instead of recurring only once a year. And the politicians so understand and applaud it.

Every law that is passed, intended to curb the arching neck of the capitalist steed, is simply a sop thrown to the jockies who ride the beast. Child labor laws, factory laws, etc., accomplish just one thing—to render the political placement, appointed to enforcement, marketable commodities. Every “stricter law” passed is intended to raise the market price of these selfsame place men. A law that shall place in the power of politicians the right to nose into the criminal log-books of railroad corporations will reduce by not one drop the water out of the stocks; it will simply force the railroads to consider these politicians as shareholders, and part with some of the plunder to them.

“Labor Laws,” “anti-Trust Laws,” “anti-Corporation Laws”— these and all such devices are evidence of two facts. First, of the inevitable and ever closer partner relationship between political government and capitalist class; secondly, of the unavoidable necessity of overthrowing both political government and capitalist class, the overthrow of either without the other being but a scotching of the snake.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded August 2009

slpns@slp.org