

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 14.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JULY 14, 1907.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

CONVERSATION NO. 7.

By DANIEL DE LEON

[Under this head will be reproduced a series of conversations that were either listened to or partaken in by the editor of *The People* in the company of the capitalist passengers, whom he met in the Pullmans in the course of his recent extensive tour in the West.]

THE Ogden Express north to Butte, Mont., was stalled several hours on the morning of March 23rd at Pocatello, Ida., where it was to take in the passengers destined north and who arrived on the Portland Express from the West. Among these passengers was the Editor of *The People*. He spent the time taking a stroll. The walk led him to a sentinel box in which sat in solitary confinement an old man “watching the crossing.” The conversation that ensued elicited the information contained in the following condensed form:

“The Mormons are quite numerous in this Southern part of Idaho. I’m no Mormon. But the truth be told, the Mormons are good people. One hears a deal about their polygamous practices. The people who have most to say about that, I have noticed, are people well known to be none too chaste. See that row of houses on the other side of the road? [Pointing to a long tree-sheltered road lined with cozy cottages.] Well, you can tell which of them are kept by Mormons, and which of them are not. The ones that look clean, with fences in repair, and well trimmed shrubbery—they are kept by Mormons. If you see any house that looks neglected you may be sure no Mormon lives there. Other people also keep their houses neat, but not always. The Mormons always do. They are given a start from the central treasury in Salt Lake. When they need help they get it. Whether that destroys their self-reliance? I should think not. It promotes their self-reliance. They have happy faces. My daughter lives next door to a Mormon family. She tells me they can be told apart from our people. They have not the worried look our people have.

Incentive? All the incentive in the world. How they treat their hands. They drive close bargains. They get their money's worth for every cent of wages they pay. Their hands are generally Mormon. Makes no difference to them: they work them all alike. The Church furnishes the hands, and then sets up the hands independent."

Mormonism is not Socialism.

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

slpns@slp.org