

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 2, NO. 325.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1902.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

LET'S ROARINGLY LAUGH.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE below letter merits reproduction in editorial space:

Editor THE PEOPLE:—

For some weeks past I have noticed going the rounds of the "Socialist" or Social Democratic papers a pathetically humorous paragraph similar to the following, clipped from Milksop Hayes' *Citizen*:

"In Dallas, Tex., the Socialist party polled 250 votes in 1900; this spring, 2,465. The Democrats received 3,583 and the other parties practically nothing."

As a resident of Dallas, conversant with the facts, I denounce the statement that "the 'Socialist' party polled 2,456 votes this spring" in the late city election as a falsehood.

The facts are: One B.R. Anderson, a more or less well known "businessman" of the city, announced himself as an INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE for the office of Alderman-at-large and "in favor of public ownership." The local Social Democrat branch, comprising possibly forty or fifty persons, endorsed his candidacy. Mr. Anderson may or may not be a member of the S.D. branch. Anyway in the entire campaign, if he ever made a speech or if he ever published an address espousing socialism or announcing that he would uphold the socialist program, I never learned of it.

One thing is sure, of all the printed matter he ever issued in behalf of his candidacy, none ever contained any allusion to socialism.

There was NO SOCIALIST TICKET IN THE FIELD in the late campaign or election in Dallas, either "Socialist" or Socialist Labor Party. The fact that Mr. Anderson announced as an independent candidate favoring public ownership and was endorsed by the Dallas S.D.P. branch, is all there was to it. Not one person in fifty, perhaps, who voted for Anderson knew that he sustained any political relationship to any socialist party organization. The above are facts and the *Citizen* paragraph is a canard.

WORD H. MILLS.

Dallas, Texas, May 14, 1902.

"Canard" is a mild term to apply to such doings. It is one of the numerous glass-

eggs that the Kangaroo Social Democracy, alias "Socialist" party, is placing all over the land, under the stupid hens that make up its dupes, to encourage them to keep together. We have quoted a large number of these. The "giant strides" made by this "Multi-Coca" party consists of just such "strides" as the one in Dallas. It is a fraud; a stupid fraud.

Yet stupid and fraudulent tho' the performance is, it is not without its humor. Whose diaphragm is not shaken with laughter at sight of the ramshackle collection of Kangaroo Social Democratic Editors and "essayists," compelled by the lashings of the S.L.P. one day to "disown" the log-rolling indulged in by their "locals," and the next day footing up the total products of these identical log-rollings and giving that as an instance of their "giant strides?" Who is there so bereft of humor not to roar out aloud at the sight of such a rabble-rout imagining that with their glass-eggs they can pelt down capitalism, or be considered dangerous enough to be bought off by the capitalists?

Let's roaringly laugh.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded September 2006