

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 309.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 5, 1913.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

“LAND AND LABOR.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN the Pennsylvania-Railroad-controlled good town of Altoona there has appeared a new paper—*Land and Labor*.

There are two things about *Land and Labor* that make one's heart warm with joy.

The first of these is the evidence that the paper itself gives of the truth implied in the motto which it flies across its front page: “Watch the other papers grow radical.” An editorial paragraph like this:—“Labor applied to land produces everything necessary to life. The capitalists have the land. You have the labor”—indicates quite clearly that its writer was at a time a Single Taxer; that, altho' he still clings to Single Tax modes of expression so as to exclude “capital” from, and to speak only of “labor” and “land” as the necessities for modern production, nevertheless he has cast off Single Taxism at least to the extent of adopting the by the Single Tax hated Socialist terminology which designates as “capitalist” the socio-economic entity which stands to-day between Labor and Freedom. That is an evidence of growth, healthy growth, in the direction of radicalism. Numerous other editorial squibs in which the terms “Socialism” and “Socialists” are used approvingly, notwithstanding the red-rag-before-a-bull effect that the terms justly have upon the Single Taxer proper, are so many additional and welcome evidences of “Land and Labor's” being an instance illustrative of the opinion expressed in the motto: “Watch the other papers grow radical.” The hope is justified that *Land and Labor* will continue to grow.

The second pleasing thing about *Land and Labor* is that it caused S.H. Walker, the Mayor of Altoona, to scent in the paper a growth towards radicalism, to scent the growth so strongly that he, an intellectual child of the Bourbon and Copper Head slavocracy of sixty years ago, was so crazed by the scent as to lose his head,

somersault back sixty years, and attempt, by causing the arrest of the Editor of *Land and Labor* and threatening him with a fine, to perpetuate against the freedom of the press the identical outrage that the slavocracy practiced sixty years ago against the Abolitionist press, until the slavocracy was mopped the earth with.

What Socialist heart will not warm with joy at evidences of radical growth, and at the reminders, provoked by such evidences, of the fate history has in store for the Copperheads and the Bourbons of to-day!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded March 2015

slpns@slp.org