VOL. 1, NO. 296.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1901.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

NON-PARTISAN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

HE circle has been swung. First it was in Los Angeles, Cal., then in Cleveland, O., and now in New York that the rays of the approaching May Day leave bare and trembling the swindle of the pseudo Socialism that, inspired by Capitalism, freakdom is in these days extensively indulging in.

In Los Angeles, it will be remembered, the article presented itself in the light of a runaway. May Day, the day given to itself by class-conscious workingmen as a demonstration of the political and revolutionary aspirations of the wage-slave, was made to appear as a mere prelude to the September "Labor Day," a day graciously granted to Labor by the political lackeys of the Capitalist Class for the express purpose of helping to conceal the class struggle, and helping along the delusion that the interests of the exploiter are the same as the interests of the exploited.

In Cleveland, it will also be remembered, the article presented itself in the light of a back-number,—the 8-hour day. May Day, the day intended to exemplify the fact that the Working Class was abreast of the times and equipped with all the experience of the age, was made to appear as having learned nothing from experience by the old-time demand for the 8-hour day!

Finally, now in New York the article presents itself in the light of corruption, pure and simple. A certain body, composed exclusively of members of the Organized Scabbery in this city, has been, like the wolf with the sheep's skin in the fable, meeting as the "May Day Conference," and betrayed its characteristic in the choice of the marshal of its parade. Last year its marshal was a Labor-puller-in for the Democratic party, this year, the choice fell upon a gentleman who performs the same services for the Republican party,—Mr. George Campbell of Typographical Union No. 6! Thus May Day, intended to be a clean-cut proletarian demonstration, is here made to appear a confused affair run upon the "non-partisan" theory!

It takes contrasts to make a point clear. Without the foil presented by the Los Angeles, the Cleveland, and now the New York caricatures of May Day, the true May Day celebrations conducted by the Socialist Labor Party would not stand out in the vivid clearness that now they present to view.

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

Uploaded February 2006