

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 226.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1906.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

GLADSOME TIDINGS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE following press dispatch follows as close as a thunder clap after lightning upon the heels of the prosecution of the Standard Oil Trust by the State of Missouri:

“Several oil producers from Indian Territory and Kansas met in Kansas City, Mo., to-day to discuss the question of a market for their product.

“H.L. Woods, of the Oil City Derrick, who is in the city, said:

“I understand that as the Standard Oil Company has ordered work stopped in Missouri on its Whiting pipe line the producers see their chance of a market slipping away from them. The agitation against the Standard in Missouri is hurting the oil business in the Territory and Kansas. I think the producers will send a committee to Governor Folk and Attorney General Hadley to ascertain, if possible, what are the prospects of a cessation of hostilities.”

There are people, who, when they read such news, will act like ducks in thunder. Being of the duck level of information, they will imagine that the country has fallen upon evil days—the days when a private concern has the living of so many people in the hollow of its hands that all it has to do is to pull its fingers tight in order to cause Governors, Legislatures and Courts to be overrun with applications to stop prosecuting the magnate who owns the mighty hand. People, however, who are above the duck level of information will not be startled, neither will they sigh. They will be delighted.

Ignorant and designing people charge Socialists with “creating discontent.” Powerful though the Socialist is by virtue of his knowledge and intrepidity, he lacks the power to “create discontent.” Discontent is a staple product of capitalism. Once created, discontent is “treated.” There are two treatments. One may be called “doping.” It consists in trying to wreck the mind of the workingman with a code of

unctuous maxims recommending to him submission and obedience, so that he may enjoy Paradise hereafter. The other treatment consists in tonicking the workingman's mind by showing to him the reason for his discontent and the intelligent way out. The former, the "dope" treatment, feels greatly disconcerted at any and all causes that tend to aggravate discontent, or at all symptoms that justify the expectation of discontent being goaded. All such causes and symptoms only lay a heavier strain on the quack administerers of the "dope." The "dope treatment" cannot stand too much of a strain. On the other hand, the "tonic treatment" welcomes all aggravations of discontent, on the same principle that the surgeon welcomes the coming to a head of the boil. The sooner the putrid matter in a body comes to a head, the sooner will the boil burst, or be ready for the lancing, and cure set in. The sooner the causes of discontent become obvious, all the sooner will the social malady be ready to be ejected from the body social. For this reason the Socialist can only feel delight at so encouraging a symptom as the one brought out by the news despatch.

The capitalist class rules the land. It rules with the rod of the despot. Governors, Legislatures, Courts are but masks. Behind them the capitalist conceals his hand. They are there for the oppression of the people; they are there to furnish the political club that will supplement the economic club wherewith to keep the workingman in subjection. Occasionally these political offices {officers?} forget themselves, and seek to keep the capitalist "in order." So long as they seem to succeed, it is a sign that the boil is yet far from coming to a head. When, however, they fail; when the capitalist can draw in his fingers, and Governors, Legislatures and Courts must draw in their horns, as now with the Standard Oil Trust and the State of Missouri, then it is a sign that the boil is fast coming to a head, and final "treatment" and cure is at hand.

Gladsome are the tidings from Kansas City.

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

slpns@slp.org