

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 291.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1901.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

BORING FROM WITHOUT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMPLY has the “Boring from Within” theory been exemplified in these columns. Backed with facts innumerable, the theory has been demonstrated to be futile, where honestly held, and otherwise a mere cloak for dodging the struggle that every earnest and true Socialist should at all times be ready to engage in. But the “direct” method of demonstration, sufficient tho’ it may be, can be materially aided by the “indirect method.” A recent incident affords matchless opportunity to supplement the direct demonstration of the futility and impurity of the “Boring from Within” theory, by citing a proof of the effectiveness and virility of the reverse theory, the theory of “Boring from Without.” The incident referred to is the attitude of the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum Association, on the subject of the sources that it is permissible for a Labor Association to accept gifts from.

The Brooklyn Labor Lyceum—the gift of the intrepid Socialist, Dr. Francis Gerau, as a Temple in which the revolutionary spirit of class-conscious endeavor was to be cultivated—burnt down last winter. It was to be rebuilt. Funds were needed. The Association in charge proceeded to make collections. Consisting mainly of *Volkszeitung*, or Kangaroo Social Democrats, the conduct of the collectors fitted the turpitude of that element. Flying the colors of “Labor,” and with the word “Labor” on their lips, the collectors went begging and received subscriptions (ranging from \$100 to \$1,000), for which grateful thanks were returned, from capitalist exploiters and misleaders of the Working Class,—from the *Staats-Zeitung*, from Coolie-Hearst, from politician Coler, from Homestead-Carnegie, etc., etc. The news thereof was made public from day to day in the metropolitan press. Not a protest or objection arose from a single Kangaroo Social Democratic organization, and their press throughout the land, whose pace was set by the strumpet *Volkszeitung*, approved, of course, in silent complacency, the infamy of its colleagues in charge of the Labor Lyceum. The infamy was sailing prosperously along, and along with it, “Labor” was being disgraced in the public eye. Suddenly

the placid countenance of the affair took a troubled aspect; from troubled it became terrified; the felon felt discovered, tried to bluff himself through, failed, and, snarling like a cur, had to drop the bone. How did this come about? By “Boring from Without” with all the might that the Buzz-Saw of the Fighting S.L.P. is dreaded for.

The Labor Lyceum Association, had, by its conduct, shown itself to be a cannon of capitalism masked with the colors of “Labor.” The Socialist Labor Party, through its daily and weekly organs, together with all its organizations, opened fire upon the fraud. The Association held meetings upon meetings in which it sought to throw up breastworks of defence: these being, of course, additional false pretence, but offered larger targets for the S.L.P. The S.L.P. rained hot shot and shell upon the corrupt crew in one continuous cannonade. In short, it “Bored from Without,” with the result that the Kangaroo breastworks were demolished, their cannon silenced, and themselves compelled to capitulate. As announced in these columns, a resolution was adopted by the Association last Sunday taking backwater completely. The name of Labor stands vindicated.

Had this been possible by “Boring from Within”? Never! The majority votes, by which the Kangaroo Association upheld its infamy in several successive meetings, would have palsied all opposition. The striking arm would have been fettered. “Boring from Without,” however, the striking arm remained free, and thus blows could rain from without, until the public opinion was sufficiently aroused to cow the malefactors and produce an effect within.

Intrepid assailants never smite from within until they have stormed the enemy’s works,—from without. From without is the battle. Every honorable man knows that, and he acts accordingly; poltroons reverse the order, and, crawling behind a pretended theory of struggle, revel in corruption.

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