

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 194.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1906.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

BITTER-SWEET.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE passage from the *Ny Tid* (New Time), published last week in these columns under “The Movement Abroad,”¹ must have been both bitter and sweet to *The People* readers.

Bitter to the taste must have been the fact that honored members of the Social Democracy of Norway, men who could be trusted by the organization to the extent of being set up in their districts as the standard bearers of Socialism, and being elected to the national Legislature, should be found keeping step with the bourgeois delegates, and voting for a monarchy after the separation from Sweden. Bourgeois republics offer the working class no greater guarantee for the product of their labor than does the most “constitutional” of monarchies; nevertheless, the theory upon which all monarchy is founded is one that has nothing in common with the Socialist Republic, it is abhorrent to Socialism. That members and political representatives of an organization, that holds itself out as Socialist and is affiliated with the International Socialist Movement through the International Bureau at Brussels, should deliberately, cast their votes for monarchy, reveals both greenness in the individual and culpable laxness on the part of the organization itself. Socialism stands disgraced by the Norwegian Socialist delegation in the parliament of Norway.—This certainly, is bitter enough.

Nevertheless the disgraceful incident has furnished occasion for the Norwegian Social Democratic paper, the *Ny Tid*, to give utterance to views that serve as salve to the wound that has been inflicted. The *Ny Tid* seeks for the cause of the worse than slip. It finds the same in the circumstance that the Socialist deputies in question “come from districts WHERE THE MOVEMENT IS DEPRIVED OF ONE

¹ [To be appended at a later date.—R.B.]

OF ITS NECESSARY BASES—THE TRADES UNION ORGANIZATION”. There is, on the whole, hope for the Socialist organization whose organ so unerringly hits upon the fundamental pre-requisite for a clean Socialist representation in the legislative bodies of the capitalist class—revolutionary or CLASS CONSCIOUS UNIONISM. Such an organization may misplace its confidence in men; it may err in this, that or the other; but it can not long remain wrongly switched.—This is the sweet to the bitter cup.

Where universal suffrage exists, the Labor Movement is bound to assume its political aspect. Where that political aspect is assumed, the fate of the Labor Movement depends upon the soundness or unsoundness of the economic movement. Where the latter does not exist, or is “pure and simple”, the political movement goes to pot by becoming the handmaid of the exploiter: it joins the economic movement in fakirism; where, however, the economic movement is sound, the successful candidates of the political movement are bound to “walk Spanish”—or the economic movement, the army of occupation, will “know the reason why.”

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Uploaded February 2009

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