

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 324.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 20, 1901.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## FROM THE FRYING-PAN INTO THE FIRE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**N**O fox, veteran in the chase, and expert in baffling the hounds, compares with the Capitalist Class in fruitfulness of resources to dodge the noose that its own development is drawing ever closer around its criminal neck.

Recent events in Albany have brought home to many, who never thought of it before, the bankruptcy of capitalist theory. The theory and all its sub-theories came badly banged out of the trolley-men's strike. The theory, that the ownership of the machinery of production is a private matter, rendered itself ridiculous when the private owners were seen breathlessly, and white about the gills, running, wiring and telephoning to their political lackeys, the public powers, to hasten to their help with troops, and soon as they got these, cowered behind them; the theory that the system of private ownership in the machinery of production, transportation and distribution is one calculated to furnish a stable social system and promote the welfare of the people, came out riddled with bullets when the capital of the Empire State found itself standing on its head, with mourning in its homes. Out of the fracas one voice rang clear: "Down with Capitalism! Up with the Socialist Republic!"—the sound rang clear from every incident of the strike.

With the noose thus tightening around its neck, the fox of Capitalism quickly doubles; and how? Socialism is proved true? The capitalist affects conversion; and forthwith his mouth pieces declare themselves in favor of "municipal ownership."

Was it ex-Senator Murphy who downed the strike? Was it any of his fellow directors who did? Conspicuously, NO! What downed the strike was the PUBLIC POWERS: from the Governor down, the Public Powers stepped forth, rolled Labor in the dust and gave the victory to Capital! Accordingly, to place the railways under the immediate control of the capitalist Public Powers could help the situation not a whit. Externally, the change would look like Socialism; internally, the change would be but an intensification of Capitalism, placing the Working Class more completely at the mercy of its plunderers.—A clever subterfuge!

But the Socialist—not the fraudulent concern, the breath of whose nostrils is capitalist favor,—the S.L.P. man, raises loud his voice and exposes the swindle.

“Municipal Ownership,” “National Ownership,”—such are but the outward trappings of Socialism: they are not the essence. The Government is to-day “municipally,” “stately” and “nationally” owned. Is Socialism in power? NO! Because the principle of the Government is capitalist, and being that, it is administered in the interest of the capitalist plunderers and against the plundered working class. Place the railroads in the hands of a Capitalist Government, and they will be administered the same as any other department is administered to-day—for the Capitalist Class.

The Socialist Republic is not possible except upon Socialist principle. Socialist principle is not enforceable in Government except by the Working Class. To secure Socialism, to end the reign of Anarchy that Capitalism battens on, the Working Class must storm the fortress of capitalist rule, oust the Capitalist Class, and, along with it, the capitalist principle, and enact the principle of Socialism.

The capitalist fox is now seeking to induce the workingman to fly from the frying pan of capitalist private ownership into the fire of capitalist government ownership.

Watch that fox and baffle him, oh, ye workers!

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

Uploaded March 2006