

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## A TIMELY ADVICE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**V**ERY much in season is the recommendation made in this month's Detroit *Industrial Union News*, the national organ of the I.W.W., to the members and friends of the organization that they make every effort possible in their several localities to counteract the efforts of the Bummery in "dragging the name of the I.W.W. through the mire," and to expose them as fraudulent users of the I.W.W. as their name.

More than one circumstance combine to play into the hands of the fraudulent endeavor of the Bummery. And all these favoring circumstances center in the leading characteristics of the bourgeois press.

First and foremost among these characteristics is the bourgeois-press itch for the yellow, all the more when the yellow is tainted, besides. Whatever is excitingly yellow is "good copy," and that press embraces, as readily as the millpond readily gives admission to ducks. Any words that are apt to shock, any purposes whose irrationality is most likely to make a stir, any individuals who stand for these—all three are greedily seized by the quill-pushers, and their stuff, especially if accompanied with pictures, is published. That makes the paper read. It matters not that the crude matter may cause the unwary reader to suffer with mental indigestion. Nor does it matter if the paper, superficially glanced over, is thrown away, and its contents forgotten. All that matters not. The multiplicity of copies of the paper, seen in public conveyances, promotes advertisements, and political subventions—the "practical aim" of the bourgeois press.

A second characteristic of the bourgeois press is the policy to queer whatever makes for healthy thought among the proletariat. To queer that accomplishes the double purpose of scattering the workers and of raising violent prejudices against them. Of course, the two things combine to a general end—give improved chances to

the prolongation of the Reign of the Capitalist Class.

The Bummary offers choice grist to these two wheels in the mill of the bourgeois press. The spectacular performances of the Bummary; their lurid declamation; their notoriety-itching vainglory; their half-baked “philosophy”; the irrationality of their prowesses; the law-breaking rage that they incite against themselves on the part of unbalanced bourgeois; their intimacy with police-spies, on account of which they run their heads into the noose; the degeneracy that marks more than one of their most prominent leaders;—all this is just what the bourgeois press thirsts for the columns of its journals, periodicals and magazines.

For that very reason no effort must be neglected on the part of the I.W.W. to expose the Bummary. To state the facts is to expose the thing; to expose the thing is to do a double work of virtue:—

It takes the Word to those among the Bummary who are merely misguided, and rescues them;

It preserves clean the banner, escutcheon and name of the I.W.W.

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