

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 101.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

FOR INSTANCE—

By DANIEL DE LEON

A CORRESPONDENT from Kansas City, Mo., asks—

“I notice in *The People* frequent allusions to the *Appeal to Reason* as a paper that ‘has contempt only for its readers,’ and ‘humbugs their cash out of their pockets.’ Could you give me an illustration, for personal enlightenment and for use?”

With pleasure—

Here is an illustration of the *Appeal to Reason's* having “contempt only for its readers”:

Answering a correspondent on what the difference is between the Socialist Labor Party and the Socialist party, the *Appeal to Reason* said in its issue of January 14, 1911:

“The main difference is that the Socialist Labor Party was tried and was found wanting, and is dying because it became a party of bosses. It is polling few votes and would poll fewer if it were not for the fact that old party politicians try to confuse people and turn to it every vote possible in the hope of so crippling the only real Socialist party in America, the Socialist party.”

We make no point of the statement that “the Socialist Labor Party was tried and found wanting,” and the implied assertion that the Socialist party was tried and found “full weight.”—We make allowance for *Appeal to Reason* ignorance of Socialism. The *Appeal*, possibly, believes what it says on that head.

Neither do we make any point of the opinion that the S.L.P. “is dying.”—Mental science is quite expressive upon the sort of brats that The Wish is father to.

The point lies in the passage that “the old party politicians try to confuse people and turn to it [the S.L.P.] every vote possible.” No allowance for the generative

power of The Wish, or for Ignorance, can save the maker of such a statement. The fact is too notorious that the old party politicians hate the very mention of the S.L.P., while equally notorious is their fondness for the S.P. For every one instance in which the most cursory allusion is made to the S.L.P. in the press of the old party politicians, at least one thousand lines are devoted in advertising the S.P. The fact is so notorious that it can escape nobody—except he be the veriest sleepy-head. By printing the statement that the old party politicians try to turn every vote possible to the S.L.P., the *Appeal to Reason* expressed in big type its contempt for its own readers, its estimate of them as noodlable geese.

The *Appeal to Reason* is publishing broadcast an advertisement of itself as the source from which to obtain a pamphlet entitled *\$2,000 per Year and a Six Hour Work Day*, the pamphlet to be thrown in as a sort of chromo for every 25 cents sent as a sub for the paper.

Here, again, no allowance for the generative power of The Wish, or for Ignorance, will explain away the raw-boned fact. The advertisement is an obvious catch-penny affair of the regulation “Florida Lands,” “Shoaf Revelations,” Chicago Kahn’s Store that was to “Practice Socialism,” and so many other penny-catching frauds that have blossomed in the *Appeal to Reason’s* columns with an eye to the cash in the readers’ pockets.

We repeat the charge—the *Appeal to Reason* has contempt only for its readers, and humbugs their cash out of their pockets.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded March 2014

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