

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 4, NO. 30.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## THE CASE OF MINNESOTA.

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**T**HE correspondence, found elsewhere in this issue, from Minneapolis is commended to the attention of Socialist Labor Party members, the Party's sympathizers and all honorable and serious watchers of events.<sup>1</sup> The passage, particularly commended to their attention, is that in which the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party have raised the curtain over their criminal "entente cordiale" with the politicians of the capitalist parties.

The facts are these: According to the laws of Minnesota no political party can go on the official ballot with a name, or part of a name of another party polling the requisite percentage, or previously in existence. The Socialist Labor Party, having been regularly on the official ballot for many a year, was entitled to its distinctive name of "Socialist Labor" to the exclusion of any other party. The counterfeit article, named in Minnesota "Socialist party," having sprung up after the Socialist Labor Party, and not polling the necessary percentage, could not create the confusion it is there for by getting on the official ballot in the regular manner. Accordingly, it secured a special Act of the Legislature allowing it a place on the ballot. But not that is the point brought out in the correspondence from Minneapolis. So long as people can be confused they are not yet ready for the Socialist Revolution. The Socialist Labor Party looks for and trains only unconfusable men. Accordingly, the pull of the Bogus Socialists with the Minnesota capitalist Legislature had for its only effect to redouble the energy of the S.L.P. men. But at the public meeting, described in the correspondence, the Bogus Socialists indicated that the construction which they put upon the special Act in their favor does not stop with allowing them to go on the official ballot, but that it goes further and excludes the

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<sup>1</sup> ["Correspondence: Be These Symptoms," signed "Militant" and dated from "Minneapolis, July 20, 1903."—R.B.]

Socialist Labor Party. In other words, what would have required a vote of the people at the hustings, cast for a ticket that they considered Socialist, is expected to have been accomplished by the vote of a set of Republican and Democratic legislators; or to put it still more plastically, these Bogus Socialists expect to enjoy by the grace of the vote of capitalist politicians privileges that could not otherwise be enjoyed except by the vote of the people.

The shyster characteristics of the Bogus Socialists are so notorious that their interpretations of law deserve no attention. Nevertheless, equally notorious is their intimacy with the capitalist politicians. Possibly this "interpretation," that they now set afloat, has been communicated to them by the said politicians; in which case it is possible that the stiff fight which the S.L.P. will set up against giving the full weight of a general Act to a special Act may fail of success in the courts. It would almost be worth the while:

It would be worth the while to see alleged revolutionists, who appeal to the people for support, giving the people a kick and virtually saying to them: "You may or may not support us; we don't need ye; we can get on the official ballot, TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL {ANY?} OTHER PARTY THAT HAS SOCIALISM IN ITS NAME, without your vote; we have something that is worth the vote of all of ye put together, to wit, our chums the Republican and Democratic legislators and their Governor";

It would be worth the while to see these Republican and Democratic capitalist officials and shooters of the working class taking under their wings, against the Socialist Labor Party, the "revolutionists" that pretend to be for Labor and to contemplate the "overthrow of capitalism."

Finally, it would be worth the while to see the S.L.P. men, in whatever State their party name is thus LEGISLATED out of existence, give proof of their mettle, and teach both the capitalist class and its lackeys the Boguses that the body that is to make the quietus of both, consists, not in a name, but of MEN.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded January 2007