

DAILY PEOPLE

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ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE GRAND JUNCTION SCHEME.

By DANIEL DE LEON

TRUTH courts investigation. Poised in accord with fact, it confidently invites the probings of the skeptical and the queries of the uninformed. Falsehood, obversely, seeks concealment. At variance with things as they are, it fears exposure, and would bedim and obscure where light is needed.

These trite observations are applicable to all spheres of human activity, but nowhere more so than in the Working Class Movement of this country. Therein, Truth, represented by the Socialist Labor Party, has promoted inquiry, confident that the result would be in its favor; while Falsehood, hiding behind various names, such as “Socialist,” alias Social Democratic, alias Public Ownership party, has endeavored to prevent the dissemination of knowledge for fear of exposing its own fraudulency. To all inquirers who have visited the offices of *The People* in search of information as to which is the true Socialist party, the advice has always been given to fail not to get acquainted with the “Socialist,” alias Social Democratic, alias Public Ownership party and its literature, while making the acquaintance of the Socialist Labor Party and its publications. The inquirer was substantially told: “Here, you are a man (or a woman, as the case might be) of sufficient intelligence and honesty to want to know the truth. Don’t take our statements as final. Investigate for yourself. Read both sides. Form your own opinions. Decide for yourself which is right.”

And how fared inquiring visitors to the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic, alias Public Ownership party, as reported by many of these visitors themselves? They were substantially told: “Don’t go to *The People* or the Socialist Labor Party. You will learn nothing of them. They are liars, scamps, rascals, scabs, popes, union-wreckers.” Worse than that—the “Intellectual” headquarters of the said party of many names, not only attempted to prevent these seekers after truth

from receiving the benefits of their own honesty and intelligence, but they surreptitiously circulated all imaginable falsehoods regarding the Socialist Labor Party. Possessed only of the cowardice of falsehood, they lacked the manliness and the confidence of truth. They went further. They wrote letters trying to intimidate other labor papers into dropping advertisements of Socialist Labor Party literature. By all means, that literature was not to reach the workers!

Likewise is it a matter of public knowledge that the Socialist Labor Party has ever thrown its platform open to the members of the “Socialist,” alias Social Democratic, alias Public Ownership party, who desired to attack its tactics and principles, and espouse their own. Just now, a notable example of the Socialist Labor Party’s desire for truthful investigation is shown in the action of Section Grand Junction, Colo., as reported in these columns.¹ Confident of the truth of its position, the Section has invited Local Grand Junction, “Socialist” party, to meet with it for the purpose of comparing and criticizing the contents of the *Weekly People* and the *Appeal to Reason*, their respective party organs. Significant enough of the times, the invitation has been accepted by the Grand Junction “Socialist” party local in the spirit in which it was extended, and in striking contrast to the spirit of their party’s leaders, from whom they are evidently fast emancipating themselves.

Truth is mighty and will prevail. Many are the indications that the rank and file of the “Socialist,” alias Social Democratic, alias Public Ownership party are beginning to see the light, and are repudiating falsehood. Some of their locals are beginning to send official communications to *The People*, and thereby indicate the current of the stream. May their number increase. When they come they will find the Socialist Labor Party now, as ever, desirous of assisting the whole Working Class by disseminating that which alone will make us free, and which all strong men will demand—full information, so as to be able to judge for themselves, and to escape being anybody’s fool.

¹ [See “Resolutions,” below—R.B.]

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CORRESPONDENCE

[Under date of April 7, 1905, S.B. Hutchinson, organizer of Section Mesa County, Colo., S.L.P., enclosed the following with a letter published in the Correspondence column of the *Daily People*, April 13, 1905.—R.B.]

RESOLUTION.

At a regular business meeting of Section Mesa County, Socialist Labor Party, held Sunday, March 19, 1905, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we, the members of Section Mesa County, Socialist Labor Party, desirous of doing all in our power to ultimately unite all the clear cut, uncompromising, class conscious working class men and women in one working class political organization, and

Whereas, There are now two political organizations, one, known as the Socialist Labor Party, and the other known as the Socialist Party, both claiming to represent the best interests of the working class, and both battling for supremacy; therefore, be it

Resolved, First, That we consider it the duty of every member of both the above-named organizations to drink deep at the fountain of political science and try to discover why we are divided in this great struggle for the emancipation of the working class. As a means to this end, we invite the members of the Socialist party local of Grand Junction, Colorado, to co-operate with us in such an investigation.

As a means to this end we will suggest that Section Mesa County, Socialist Labor Party, furnish the members of the Grand Junction local of the Socialist party from week to week with the official organ of the Socialist Labor Party, the *Weekly People*, with the understanding that the members of the said local are to read said paper with care and mark any and all articles they may find in said paper, that they believe to be unsound, untrue or inconsistent.

The Grand Junction local of the Socialist party to provide the members of Section Mesa County, S.L.P., with the *Appeal to Reason* (or some other Socialist party paper), from week to week with the understanding that said Socialist Labor Party members are to read the papers with care thus furnished them, and mark and place or part they believe to be unsound, untrue, or inconsistent, and the members of each party to save all the papers thus marked and bring them to a joint meeting of the two parties (said joint meetings to be held at least twice each month), to try, in a

friendly way, to discover wherein the articles thus marked are unsound, untrue, or inconsistent.

S.B. Hutchinson,
Organizer.
J.A. Cannell,
Secretary

Section Mesa County, S.L.P.

At a regular meeting of Grand Junction Local Branch, Socialist party, held March 26, 1905, the above resolution was endorsed, invitation accepted and *The Appeal to Reason* chosen as the Socialist party paper to be sent to the members of Section Mesa County, Socialist Labor Party.

Miss Gertrude Walsh,
Organizer.
Jas. A. Johnson
Secretary

Grand Junction Local Branch, Socialist Party.

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