

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 278.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1908.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

IN AID OF GAMBLING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AN innocent man, reading the Albany reports about betting and horse racing, would be inclined to believe that a sudden spasm of righteousness had seized the Governor. If the same innocent man were to think deeper he would wonder at so much clatter about so little. If, besides being innocent, that is, uninformed, such a man is of an inquisitive mind he would soon take back tracks both in his belief regarding the “spasm of righteousness” and regarding the queer sights that caused him to wonder. He would then smile a knowing smile.

The fact is that the anti-race course Crusade in Albany is not an anti-gambling, is decidedly a pro-gambling Crusade. It is a manoeuvre intended, by a show of attacking gambling, to screen gambling from attack.

Industrial crises have their root in the planlessness of capitalist production. The present industrial crisis is no exception. Nevertheless, in this particular instance the immediate or proximate cause lay in a new phenomenon—the appearance of the Money Trust on the field. The Money Trust is a trustification, not of the money-commodity only; it is also a trustification of the gambling connected with money and which centers in the stock exchanges. Europe has its faro game little towns. The United States produced a gigantic gambling hell centered in Wall Street. The directors of two groups of leading banks, are also directors in most of the industrial, transportation, mining, real estate and other enterprises. As such they now congest money in a few centers, loan the same to themselves, and manipulate funds just as gamblers do around the green table. The industrial life of the land is controlled by these few concerns, and, desperate gamblers as they are, their stakes are nothing short of the country’s welfare. Senators and Representatives may make speeches in Congress, the President may sputter, but the gamblers, rooted in the capitalist system, shake the dice, cast them and carry on their wild carousel—last

not least they dictate legislation.

The present frightful depression is the consequence. Here and there a true note has been struck and the ugly fact has been laid bare that gamblers and gambling are ruling the land. The announcement carried conviction everywhere. What more natural than an immediate Crusade against horse-racing, and thus, under guise of attacking gambling, draw attention from and thereby protect the real gamblers every one of whom ought to be in the penitentiary?

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded January 2010

slpns@slp.org