

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 60.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## TWO OF A KIND.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Vancouver, B.C., *Western Clarion* of August 14th reiterates its conviction of the futility of the economic organization as a weapon for the overthrow of capitalism; and it re-asserts its theory regarding the potency of the ballot, unbacked up by economic organization.

The *Western Clarion* adduces this time a new argument in support of its theory. It reasons:

“If the proletariat feels the necessity of a general strike to back up the opinion it has expressed at the ballot nothing will prevent that strike whether it be organized by crafts or industrially, or as is the case with the vast majority of the proletariat, not organized at all. On the other hand, if the urgency of such strike is not apparent to it, no form of organization can compel it.”

What is the difference between this, the reasoning of the pure and simple ballotist, and this other, the reasoning of the pure and simple bombist:

“If the proletariat feels the necessity of a ballot, to back up the opinion it has expressed at the general strike, nothing will prevent that ballot, whether it be organized by the Socialist party, or by the Socialist Labor Party, or, as is the case with the vast majority of the proletariat, not organized at all. On the other hand, if the urgency of such a ballot is not apparent to it, no form of organization can compel it.”

The *Western Clarion* deserves the thanks of the Movement for furnishing an uncommonly clever illustration of the fact that pure and simple ballotism and pure and simple bombism are both tarred with the same stick—the stick of the one-legged hobbyist; are both afflicted with the same malady—the malady of going off half-cocked; are both plants of the identical soil—the soil that has not much earth,

and on which forthwith the plants spring up, because they have no deepness of earth, and wither away because they have no root.

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

Uploaded by Donna Bills, October 2010

[socialists@slp.org](mailto:socialists@slp.org)