

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 9, NO. 307.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 3, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE advocates of buying out the capitalists would do well to take to heart the object lesson borne to them just now in the despatches from England.

The reports of the “anger and dismay” now heaving the breast of all oppressed British millionaires over the new budget, make amusing reading, the very comicality of which rams home the point.

Here is one burly property-holder exclaiming in horror at the fact that under the new law, his estate, should he die, would be mulcted by the state to the extent of 27 per cent., “should its value be a million pounds (\$5,000,000) or more.” Poor man, his heirs would then have left only \$3,650,000 to sue each other over!

And here is another idle peer, whose best occupation is killing time and people in his high speed automobiles. Abomination of desolation, each of his machines is to be taxed \$200! That’s almost as much as one wine-supper after a touring party! It is rank confiscation, and the free born Englishman will never submit to it, he says.

As to that other confiscation which the present “groaning” rich daily practice upon their wage slaves, no gentleman would think of comparing the two. That is old, it is well established in law, and hoary headed custom has lent it all its sanctity. Moreover, the rich benefit by it, and, in fact, owe their very wealth to it. Who could be so unpatriotic as to attack it!

Whether Lloyd-George will carry his budget or not it is yet too early to know. The storm of protest his own bourgeoisdom has raised against it is only the latest proof of the fact that the tiger capitalism will guard one whisker of his chin as jealously as he will his whole body.

Yet Lloyd-George’s budget aims not at abolishing the exploitation of the working class. Its object is merely to raise certain sums from the master class for

their own protection. They kick against that; where would the buyer-out come in?

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

slpns@slp.org