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EDITORIAL

OUTDOING ITSELF

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Democracy of this State in convention assembled outdid itself. All previous Democratic performances in demagoguery become as nothing to the performance of this State convention. The following is its fly-paper declaration on the coal strike:

“We advocate the national ownership and operation of the anthracite coal mines by the exercise of the right of eminent domain, with just compensation to owners. Ninety per cent. of the anthracite coal deposits of the world being in the State of Pennsylvania, national ownership can but be in the interest of the whole people.

“Fuel, like water, being a public necessity, we advocate national ownership and operation of the mines as a solution of the problem, which will relieve the country from the sufferings which follow differences between labor and capital in the anthracite mines. This course will insure peace in the mining regions and remove the cause for differences, leading not only to suffering, but oftentimes to bloodshed and insurrection. It will relieve the consumers of coal, not only in this State, but throughout the whole country; insure steady employment and ample compensation to labor; transfer children from the mines to the schools; insure, strengthen, and preserve the stability of the business interests and popular institutions of our country. Whatever differences of opinion may exist over other propositions of public ownership, the propriety of that policy as applied to anthracite coal mines must be apparent to every citizen.”

No important reason why the anthracite coal mines should be nationalized fails to apply to other industries. And if the Democracy claims that other industries are not trustified, what of those that are?

Why not nationalize the Cotton Bale Trust? Is it because the concern is mainly owned by Democrats that the farmers are justly to be bled by that Trust beyond the point of endurance?

Why not nationalize the traction lines? Is it because the concerns are mainly owned

by Democrats that the public may be harried, run over, and packed like sardines in transportation?

Why not buy out by the State the scores of concerns in this State in which the operatives are slowly ground to death by low wages and utterly unsanitary conditions? Is it because in the instance of these concerns, they being wholly within the State, such a declaration would be altogether too practical and practicable, whereas, in the instance of the anthracite beds, they being located beyond the tackles of this State, all declarations concerning the buying out of them are beautifully vaporous?

Are these the reasons why “the propriety of a proposition to buy out, as applied to the anthracite coal mines, must be apparent to every citizen”?

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