

U N I T Y

An Address Delivered by Daniel De
Leon at New Pythagoras Hall, New
York, February 21, 1908. :: ::

Stenographically Reported by
SYDNEY GREENBERG

Price Five Cents

Published by the
NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.
28 City Hall Place, New York

U N I T Y

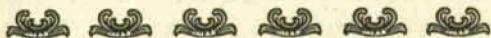
A n A d d r e s s

D e l i v e r e d b y

DANIEL DE LEON

At New Pythagoras Hall

New York, February 21, 1908



Stenographically Reported by
SYDNEY GREENBERG



Price Five Cents

PUBLISHED BY THE

New York Labor News Company

28 CITY HALL PLACE :: NEW YORK

U N I T Y

By *DANIEL DE LEON*

Workingmen and Workingwomen of New York:—

Almost immediately upon the issuing of the Unity Resolution by the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor Party, a number of acquaintances, and many who were no acquaintances, approached me with the request for a public expression of opinion in *The People*, from me, on the move. I declined. My reasons were that, in my editorial capacity, I had no right to comment upon an act of the National Executive Committee; and that in my individual capacity I had no right to space in *The People* until the matter should come before the Party membership on referendum. I yielded, however, so far to the request of my friend Epstein, our chairman here to-night, as to express, from this independent platform, the views that I have on this subject. All this precaution notwithstanding, and seeing that, somehow or other, the adversaries of the Socialist Labor Party have incarnated in me my Party's virtues, I shall take the additional precaution of stating right here, at the start, and expressly, that I do not here represent the Socialist Labor Party; that I am not speaking in its name; that I do not stand here in my official capacity in the Party and not even as a Party member. I speak here simply as one of the many people active

in the Socialist Movement, and merely exercising the right of thought and speech. In pursuit of this line of procedure I shall consider the subject of Unity the way a traveler from Mars would do—objectively, unbiased by the rancors that participation in conflicts frequently engenders, but equipped with certain general information as to basic Socialist principles.

The first thing that that traveler, coming from Mars, landing upon earth, here in the United States, would notice on the field of Labor was the existence of two distinct political parties, both calling themselves Socialist, both having the word "Socialist" in their names, and both heralding the "Socialist Republic", but each setting up opposing candidates, each actively taking the field with opposing propagandists, and each claiming that *it*, and not the other, is entitled to the voters' support. The traveler from Mars must be supposed to be equipped with some general knowledge of men and things, and also of history. Such knowledge will warn him against considering such a sight, as the one I just described, as necessarily absurd. He will know that such a thing as two, or even more, bodies, having the same goal and yet bitterly combatting each other as to methods, is nothing strange in history. Being versed in history and in the philosophy of history, the traveler from Mars will be aware that different sets of people will frequently believe their goal to be identical, and will give it the same name, and yet, unconscious to most, but conscious to some, the goals are, in fact, not quite identical, the difference in goals being fatedly manifested by the differences in methods. For instance, the traveler from Mars will realize that the concept of a "Socialist Republic", whose central, or Directing Authority, that is, its Government, is to consist of the Representatives of the several industries and

