

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1. NO. 57.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 1900.

TWO CENTS.

FIRST EDITORIAL

## DR. QUACK.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“If I were to use now a common, everyday expression to convey my idea of the condition of the young man seeking a future, I should say, ‘He’s up against it.’ He may get a start, or what looks like one, but I don’t care what he is, clerk, messenger, bookkeeper, any thing you please, there is no ladder on which he can climb. Hundreds of letters come to me every day telling me just these things, and hundreds of letters come to me from young men, telling me they can’t get employment. There is no hope for them to-day.”

**W**ho is this speaker so correctly sizing up the situation as it exists to-day, and outlining the dreary and hopeless prospects that the Democratic-Republican-capitalist system holds out to the young men? One would think it was some Socialist who was trying to open the eyes of the socially blind, or, at least, that the speaker was reading from a Socialist text book. This is what the Socialist Labor Party has been telling the American people for years. But this speaker is no Socialist. He is the Tammany leader, Mr. [Richard Croker](#), addressing his district leaders.

The Socialist Labor Party, through its press and speakers, for years has been saying and proving that there was no longer a chance for the young man to make a decent living; that the road to comfort and freedom was blocked for the millions of sons of working people; that the future of the young man was a dark picture of hopeless wage-slavery or beggary, and was becoming worse.

The Socialist Labor Party went further. It explained the cause of these conditions and showed the remedy. The cause was proved to be the private ownership of the machinery of production. The remedy advocated was that these young men, together with the rest of the working class, should, by knocking out the



RICHARD CROKER (1841–1922)

parties of the class to which the Crokers belong, take possession of this machinery in the name of the United States Government, and operate it for the benefit of the whole people. In vain have all the paid editors, professors, pulpiteers and placemen endeavored to break the force of this logic. The diagnosis was correct; the remedy the only possible one.

Mr. Croker has correctly stated the situation. That he is too ignorant or too crafty to state the cause is matterless. What remedy does he propose? He proposes a remedy that stamps him as a political quack; a sordid-minded, stony hearted political crook who would perpetuate and exploit the misery of the young men to gain and keep power and pelf for himself. The remedy he proposes is worthy of the Ice Trust magnate who complacently fills his coffers with dollars coined from the fever of city children. Here is his remedy:

“Invite them to join your district clubs.”

The medical quack is noted for indifference to the sufferings of his victims. Little recks he of their ruined lives as long as he fattens on their afflictions and sells them poisonous drugs. He can draw a fearful picture of their present and future sufferings and calmly prescribe something that will not alleviate and may render worse their pain. This political Dr. Quack does the same. It remains to be seen how many dupes will swallow the prescription.

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

Uploaded June 2005