

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 18.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, JULY 18, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## COOLIEWARDING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**ITH no more expenditure of money than a two-cent stamp—a postal card will also do—anybody can secure for the asking, a manual prepared by the Department of Agriculture, and entitled *Economic Use of Meats in the Home*.

A study of the manual by the light of the alphabet of political economy justifies the substitution of a different name for the one that the manual now bears. It should be called “Carpeting the Road to Cooliedom.”

In a nutshell the theory of the manual is this: The high price of meat excludes the expensive portions of the carcass from the table of any but the rich; but the poor do not yet need to give up meat altogether; there are cheap cuts; these cuts are cheap because hard to prepare; he who knows how, can render the cheap cut both appetizing and palatable. The manual teaches how.

Political economy teaches that the price of labor-power, commonly called wages, depends, like the price of all other commodities upon supply and demand. Political economy also teaches that, in the long run, supply and demand equilibrate and that, consequently, in the long run, the price that commodities fetch in the market corresponds to their value, their value being determined by the amount of labor-power crystallized in the article, and socially necessary for its reproduction. These teachings of political economy combine in pointing to startling conclusions when applied to the commodity labor-power.

In the first place, improved machinery and concentration displaces Labor so plentifully that the supply in the Labor Market greatly exceeds the demand. The consequence of the excess is a lowered price of wage; and the consequence of a lowered wage in continuity is to depress the standard of living. This in itself leads Coolieward. The application of the manual of the Department of Agriculture puts on

steam to the Coolieward process.

What is called the “value” of labor-power is a shifting thing. It depends upon the historic circumstances. These determine the standard of living enjoyed by the workers at any given time. A continued lower wage tends to depress the standard of living. There is a natural instinct to resist. The depressing process does not proceed smoothly. Schemes like that of the manual of the Department of Agriculture oil the wheels of the process, and smother its operation. A meat diet that is a meat diet in name only, would lessen resistance. The more imperceptible the lowering of the standard of living is, all the more smoothly and swiftly would the decline proceed.

The manual on the *Economic Use of Meats in the Home* is a carpet spread—and there are others—to Cooliedom.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded July 2011

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