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EDITORIAL

IMPREGNABLE S.L.P.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE matter of the endorsement of Democratic candidates by the Social Democratic Jewish organ *Vorwaerts*, already commented upon in these columns, is a two-sided medal, both of equal significance. We have taken up one side, the side that betrays the corrupt purposes that lurk behind the immemorial charge of “intolerance” and “narrowness” hurled against the Socialist Labor Party. That side renders an indirect homage to the S.L.P. by exposing the putridity that lies under “broadness” and “tolerance.” We shall now take up the other side, the side that renders direct homage to the S.L.P. in that it demonstrates the intelligence, clearheadedness and manliness of the units that constitute the Party.

A man can see no more than he brings eyes to see with. The perfections and imperfections in architecture escape the eyes of the untutored: only he whose eyes have been trained in the art can perceive them. The significance of a bit of rock is perceived only by him whose eyes are portals to a mind well trained in mineralogy. And so forth, and so on. Exactly so with sound economics, tactics and integrity in a Socialist movement. He whose mind is a blank on economics will never detect the flaw of false economics; he whose training is not perfect will ever have to take his cue from others on what are proper tactics; he whose intellect is not well tutored will pass by acts of corruption, unnoticed. The Social Democratic *Vorwaerts*' endorsement of capitalist candidates held out to view a crack, not in sound Socialist tactics only, but also in Socialist integrity. Was it necessary to call the attention of the Party members to it? Was it necessary, from some central spot, to issue the signal? Not at all! It so happens that none at headquarters can read Yiddish. It happened in this, as in all similar instances, that, not the headquarters “touched the button,” but that the information came to headquarters from the militants. They had eyes to see; and saw; and kindled with

indignation; and took up the matter; and cudgeled the heads of the miscreant Social Democrats with it; and themselves sounded the note of warning to their fellow wage slaves.

The S.L.P. man carries his sovereignty in his hat. He needs no “jogging” to see, and act accordingly. Wherever he be, there stands an integral part of the magnificent Army of the Revolution,—and in that lies the safety and the future destiny in success of the Party, rendering it impregnable to all assaults.

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