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EDITORIAL

THE FLAMING SWORD OF TACTICS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ATENTION is here called to the translation from the Russian revolutionary Socialist paper, *Iskra*, of the article entitled “The Red Convention in the Red State,” published elsewhere in this issue.¹

Leaving aside *Iskra*'s estimate of the political significance of the Dresden convention of the German Social Democratic party—an estimate which we consider mistaken, as will be shown in an article in preparation on the subject,²—its review of the facts touching the general questions of “freedom of opinion,” “freedom of speech,” “tactical organization,” etc., etc., and the trenchant criticisms it makes of theories and acts, including and clinching the point with the Paris resolution framed by Kautsky, whom the paper with the play upon his name of the “Kautchouc (India-rubber) Resolution,” are exceptionally brilliant. Upon these points, and of that is the bulk of the article, the review and criticism are of no little interest and importance to us in America. They will be found to hew close to the lines along which the Socialist Labor Party has closely hewn for the last ten years, and for which the Party is proud of having earned the undying hostility of the freaks and the frauds of the land. In *Iskra*'s article will be seen mirrored the elements which here in America also rebel against the “bossism” of logic, the “intolerance” of rectitude, the “narrowness” of principle, the “bigotry” of aggressive enthusiasm. And the article raises the veil dramatically over the “olla podrida” of “get there quick” intellectualism.

Rather than reproduce from the archives of the S.L.P. polemics {on} the

¹ [“The ‘Red Convention’ of the ‘Red State.’ Translated from the Russian for *The People* from *Iskra*, organ of the Russian Social Democratic Party.” No *Iskra* date is given and the translator is not identified.—R.B.]

² [See “The Dresden Congress,” *Daily People*, January 3, 1904, or *Flashlights of the Amsterdam Congress*.—R.B.]

rationale of the Party's conduct, *Iskra's* article is here published as a graphic synopsis of things that must be avoided and of things that must be adhered to—as revealed by an interesting section of the seething cauldron of the Social Question.

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