

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 313.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

EAST AND WEST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WOULD you like to know the reason of an aspiration? then look down below the surface and ascertain the material interests that serve for its foundation. So likewise, and for identical reason, would you like to know the nature of a political party that sails under the colors of Socialism? then look below the surface of platform declamations, and find out what is the economic organization upon which that political party is founded.

During the late Interborough strike in this city, when Grand Chief Stone atrociously betrayed the outraged employes of the Interborough by falsely announcing that they had broken their contract and that he would have their charter revoked, a motion was made at the General Committee of the Social Democratic party of this city to hold an indignation meeting to denounce Stone's act of treachery. The motion was howled down as "De Leonism" (a true charge); and who was it that led in the denunciation of the proposed motion?—the delegate of the Metal Workers to the Central Federated Union, who is of course a leading Social Democrat and member of the said General Committee.—That was in New York. The curtain drops. The scene changes, and the curtain rises again in Chicago at the national headquarters of the said Social Democratic alias "Socialist" party.

That party's national executive committee is in session. A communication is read from the State Secretary of Wyoming suggesting Robert Randall for organizer. Randall, as the readers of *The People* will remember, was the delegate to the recent United Mine Workers' convention who unmasked the misdeeds of Mitchell. With facts uncontrovertible, with reasoning cogent and unassailable, Randall proved Mitchell a labor lieutenant of the capitalist class, pestilential to the Working Class. The application in favor of Randall was of the nature of the motion made in New York to hold indignation meetings against Stone. The application met the fate of the

motion. It was denied on the ground that “the qualifications urged in favor of Randall are not sufficient to secure appointment as an organizer.” And upon whose motion was it that Randall was declared disqualified?—It was upon the motion of Barney Berlyn, a member of Gompers’ Cigarmakers’ Union, whose horizon is bounded by the death benefit which he expects from his Union, in other words, whose horizon is bounded by his coffin!

These two instances furnish cumulative evidence of the fact that the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party is but a whiff, a breath, aye, a mephitic exhalation of that wheel in the mechanism of capital known as the American Federation of Labor, and consequently that its policy is, if not dictated, at any rate materially influenced by the leading national labor lieutenants of the capitalist class. A denunciation of Stone in New York was injurious to the labor lieutenants of capitalism who presides over the Metal Workers’ Union; a denunciation of Mitchell, as would be implied by the appointment of Randall, would be injurious to the labor lieutenants of capitalism who preside over the Cigarmakers’ Union; as such the one thing and the other would affect injuriously the obscene interests of the Berlyns, to whom it matters little how Labor fares, provided there is no injury done to their own coffins.

East and West, North and South the same instances recur constantly. Labor fakirism is the material foundation of the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic, alias Public Ownership party.—Like foundation, like superstructure.

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

Uploaded January 2008

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