

The People.

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FIRST EDITORIAL

IT MOVES AND SPREADS

By DANIEL DE LEON

Three incidents have recently occurred, within a few days of one another, that certainly are significant for the Labor World. Any one of them would be significant enough; the three combined and crowding together tell an intensified interesting tale, denoting the strong pulsations of the Socialist Labor Party and its spread, together with the accompanying manifestations of such development. The three incidents are strung across the country.

The first is in Roanoke, Va. The S.L.P. of the place, being in the midst of a municipal campaign, spreading literature, agitating, thereby dispelling the darkness of ignorance, and accordingly, threatening the comfort of the owls, the capitalists and the Labor Fakirs reached each other the band. A "Central Trade & Labor Council" of the place, an organization that has hitherto violently opposed "politics in Unions," comes forward with a "Labor" ticket. Its programme reads like the programme of tax-paying saloon-keepers and small traders generally; aided by Democratic corruption funds, these gentlemen are intent upon no purpose other than creating confusion, split up the workingman's vote, thereby discouraging, if possible, further Socialist agitation, and insuring Democratic capitalist supremacy. The corrupt purpose, being transparent, the immediate effect of the performance is to help bury pure and simpledom; to help recommending the S.L.P.

The second is almost similar but upon somewhat different lines. It is in Cleveland, O. The Central Labor Union of that city is a good deal further developed than the corresponding body in Roanoke. In the latter the Labor Fakir still dominates, the class-conscious element being in the minority; in the former it is the reverse; there the class-conscious element is dominant. From the ranks of these a resolution was presented on the performances of Gen. Merriam in the Cœur d'Alene, and it explicitly pointed out the urgency of Labor's marshaling itself under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party. The resolution was adopted. This dose seems to have been the hardest yet administered to the political and labor fakir minority in the

body: it seems to have brought home to them, more than anything before, that the fakir's row to hoe is fast becoming rougher. The result of all of which seems to be a split in the near future—one of those splits that denotes internal growth; one of those splits that to the Labor Movement is what the "split" of a milk-tooth is when it is shoved out or broken off by the oncoming strong and permanent tooth of man.

The third took place in Salt Lake City at the convention of the Western Federation of Miners. There the Committee on Resolutions presented over their signatures the following resolution WHICH WAS ADOPTED:

We believe that the only means of counteracting the evil effects of that gigantic development of modern evolution—the trusts—is the education of the people along the lines of Socialism, that they may be enabled to understand that instead of being a curse, it can be changed to a blessing by simply changing the ownership from private to collective.

Finally, we recommend that some action be taken whereby all the working people of the West can be brought to a realization of the necessity of united action at the polls, as the surest and speediest method to redress all our grievances. In our opinion the surest means of attaining this object is through the adoption and support in its entirety of the platform of the Socialist Labor Party. Respectfully submitted,

D.P. HENDRICKS,
T.J. SULLIVAN,
E.A. CRELL,
JAMES LEMON,
THOMAS PATEN.

Thus, beginning in Roanoke, where the S.L.P. is driving the crooks to show their colors; proceeding over Cleveland, where the S.L.P. has ripened further and is snuffing off the crooks; we finally reach Salt Lake City where at a trades convention of no less importance {important?} a trade then the Western miners' the S.L.P. is fully endorsed, accepted and recommended to the working class.

In next week's issue the details of the Roanoke and Cleveland incidents will be published. Let this rapid review of the three events suffice for to-day.

The future belongs to the true.