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EDITORIAL

THE JEWEL IN THE TOAD'S HEAD.

By DANIEL DE LEON

CREDIT to whom credit is due. The *Appeal to Reason* is not to be intimidated by its likes of less capacity, but no less eagerness, to use the honored name of Socialism as a trap to catch and live upon the unwary. Some five weeks ago the *Appeal* had a 3-page advertisement of a Chicago co-operative concern, puffing the thing as a necessary and practical means to demonstrate Socialism, without which demonstration Socialism would remain a theory. It was a case of swindle within swindle. A concern that promises a 100 per cent. to investors can be no bona fide affair; moreover the concern that pretends to promote Socialism by knocking on the head all the Marxian tenets, extensively illustrated by Engels, concerning the absurdity of seeking to revolutionize society by such means, behind its back, such a concern is also a fraud on the intellect, a crime upon the Labor Movement. By identifying itself with the affair, the *Appeal* became a particeps criminis in the double swindle, all the more seeing the paper pretends to be a teacher of Socialism. Here and there, a so-called Socialist party paper, less skillful than the *Appeal* in this game of gammon, raised an apologetic cry against the *Appeal*. But the *Appeal* was not to be scared by any fellow dog into dropping the bone. On the contrary, it has since snapped up another. This other bone presents features of its own.

The *Appeal* of last December 24 had half a column advertisement headed "You have Worked and Voted for the Coming of the Co-operative Commonwealth"; the advertisement then proceeded to address the "Comrades"; it asked: "Do you want Socialism?" And answering the question in the affirmative, proceeded to tell them how—"send money order for \$10" to a certain woolen mills co-operative colony somewhere in the West; finally, as befits the thing, it closed with the pontifical blessing and endorsement "of the Socialist party Local of Albuquerque", Wm. Bryce,

Rec. Sec. Nor is that all. In the *Appeal's* issue of last December 31 the advertisement is renewed under the heading "To Those Who Believe in Co-operative Ideas". This second advertisement is in a {the?} nature of a write-up. The president of the co-operative concerns tells of a visit he paid in Girard, Kansas, to the *Appeal to Reason*; of how he found the staff "were actually all wearing clothes (no wings)" as he had expected from certain objections that some Socialists had raised to his advertisement; of how, in fact, he found that the staff "had their feet firmly planted on this earth (not in Utopia or heaven)"; and of the jar he felt, in view of the complaints against his advertisement, at "finding Socialists demanding that the press should not be free".!!!!

This caps the climax of insidious villainy engaged in by the *Appeal to Reason* in conspiracy with these advertisers and endorsed by "S.P." Locals. The reasoning therein used is forged in the smithy of capitalist chicanery to dupe the workers.

Capitalist is the reasoning that a revolutionary movement must be first practically demonstrated before it is carried out.—Upon that principle the feudal King George would still be in possession of the American Colonies. They would have had a, to him, delectable time trying first "practically" to demonstrate their independence before establishing it.

Capitalist is the frame of mind that would use against the Labor Movement the Socialist's love for freedom by seeking to make {it} appear that the objection to anti-Socialist teachings and lures in the columns of its own papers is a demand to shackle its press.

Utterly petty bourgeois is the sneak-thief scheme of seeking to pick the slender pockets of workingmen. There may be some redeeming feature in the bold highwayman who holds up a train and plays for a high stake. The sneak-thief, the Fagin, is unspeakably contemptible.

Finally, at this time, when Socialist Sense is breaking through the crust of the stupidity of Gompers "pure and simple" Unionism; at this time when the theory, born of the embrace of Gompers Unionism and Capitalist deviltry, that "Capital must be fought with Capital";—at this season co-operative schemes are trotted forth with their "pure and simple" plans to overthrow Capitalism with the Capital of co-operative pennies wheedled out of workingmen's pockets, and the scheme is

endorsed and advertised by S.P. Locals and press!

All praise to the *Appeal to Reason* for its unblushing persistence in floating such "advertisements". The Socialist's delight thereat is that of the surgeon who sees the foul matter in the patient's system gather to a robust boil's head, sensible to feeling, to sight and to smell, ripe enough to be lanced.

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