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REPORT

AT STUTTGART.

Interesting Incidents at Opening of Congress.

Great Gathering Given Splendid Reception—Bebel's Speech—American Delegations Meet Together to Apportion Vote—Contest Between Pick and Heslewood—Hilquit Acknowledges Error While *Volkszeitung* Publishes Falsehood—Lively Fight in S.P. Delegation—Unity Prevails in Delegation of S.L.P.

STUTTGART, August 19.—The Stuttgart Congress is the largest yet held. At the same time it has been housed in the most beautiful building it has yet occupied, and, in honor of the Stuttgart organization, which has had charge of the arrangements, this Congress is the most orderly, properly equipped and in every respect provided for. There can be no doubt that but the Congress is an imposing demonstration, and that such a demonstration can not fail to have its influence for good.

The Congress opened late on the forenoon of Sunday, the 18th. The ceremonies were imposing. This hall is called the Liederhalle, Hall of Songs, in English. It is acoustically constructed. Despite its vastness the voice reaches far. The opening ceremonies consisted of male and female choral song sung by the Socialist musical organizations of the city. The chorus filled the vast stage. It was a beautiful song. That was followed by a speech of welcome made by Bebel who spoke in the name of Germany, pointed to the fact that this was the first Congress held on German soil since a generation ago, and commented on the progress that implied. Other speeches were made by Vandervelde and others of the Bureau in the same sense. The Congress organized itself permanently and adjourned to Monday morning. The rest of Sunday was taken up with a monster mass meeting in the open where over 50,000 people were assembled, and at night with a magnificent concert at which the

Stuttgart labor organizations were the musicians. This is the region of German music. The musicians approved themselves worthy of the reputation of their city.

Work began to-day. The several delegations met by nationalities in several rooms. So, likewise, the American delegations—Socialist Labor and Socialist party. What happened there should have been witnessed by the whole American movement. It was not one thing, it was several that happened.

First.—The report of the S.P. to the Congress, printed in advance, earned the spurs of the S.P. as a paladin—not a very heroic one, yet a paladin,—of the Civic Federationized A.F. of L. Hilquit, the writer and signer of the report, had repeated the regulation fabrications with which pure and simple political Socialism had these ten months been rubbing the sore spots inflicted upon it by the revolutionary movement last September in Chicago. At the Chicago I.W.W. convention the said pure and simplers had been soundly whipped. Their conspiracy in behalf of Sherman having signally failed, they had been pronouncing the I.W.W. (“Trautmann faction,” as they termed it) dead, and had been claiming the whole organization for the dumped Sherman. This bit of fiction figured conspicuously in the S.P. report. Now, then, when the two delegations met to apportion the votes of each, the question arose over the vote that should be apportioned to the I.W.W., which had delegates present—the imaginary Sherman “wing” being represented by one Pick, the I.W.W. proper by Fred W. Heslewood. Despite the Hilquit report, the S.P. proposed to give each delegate 1 vote. This Heslewood and the S.L.P. delegates objected to. Heslewood spoke straight to the point. His facts were not denied. They were undeniable. He proved Pick represented Zero. Hilquit admitted he was wrong and STATED HE HAD WRITTEN A CORRECTION BOTH TO THE BUREAU AND TO A GERMAN PAPER. The up-shot was that Pick, who had crawled under the A.F. of L. wing of the S.P. was “quartered.” He had expected the full I.W.W. vote. He got $\frac{1}{4}$. Of the 2 votes which the I.W.W. was to have, Heslewood received $1\frac{1}{2}$, while Pick was consoled with just $\frac{1}{2}$ a vote—a rather unheroic status. Nor was that all. On that same day I received a copy of the New York *Volkszeitung* sent to me by a New York comrade. That copy came marked—the Hilquit report. Thus while the *Volkszeitung* was publishing on August 8th the false report of Hilquit about the I.W.W., the S.P. falsehood was nailed in Stuttgart, and Sherman was

given a fraction of a vote. The *Volkszeitung* was passed around by the S.L.P. Its contents and the triumphant facts contrasted significantly.

Second.—The “harmonious” S.P. made an exhibition of itself at that joint meeting of the S.L.P. and S.P. Several of its members scratched one another’s face—so to speak. Boudin brought home to Hilquit that Hilquit’s backward races resolution, to be introduced at this Congress, had been bureaucratically jammed through the S.P. Hilquit sought to technicalize Boudin off the floor. This exhibition was hardly over when Nicholas Klein, also S.P., took the floor and read some racy letters he had written to Benjamin Hanford and other S.P. luminaries on the score of their having voted against him for delegate to the Congress. And so it went on for some time. In the meantime the 8 delegates of the allegedly “quarrelsome” S.L.P. sat there like a lot of angels who, with their peaceful, angelic faces, posture and demeanor put to shame the choir of angels that serve the archangel Gabriel as body-guard.

Great times are expected.

D. DE LEON.

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