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EDITORIAL

TO THE PROLETARIAT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ON next election day, November 2, for the first time in seventeen years, there will be, conspicuous for its absence on the Pennsylvania ballot, the ticket of the only political party in the land that symbolizes the aspirations of our age—the ticket of the Socialist Labor Party. For the first time, as a consequence, in the last seventeen years, there is no Socialist standard in Pennsylvania around which to rally.

But, is there not a “Socialist party” ticket on the ballot? Yes; there is such a ticket on the ballot; and the circumstances of there being such accentuates the fact of there being no SOCIALIST ticket on the Pennsylvania ballot.

The facts are these—undeniable:

The Socialist party of this country is a body at war with theoretical Socialism, at war with practical Socialism, and at war with the International Socialist Movement.

Theoretic and practical Socialism knows no distinction of races among the proletariat. The S.P. ruptures the international proletariat and the proletariat of this country into races. In Maryland and other States the S.P. is against the Negro; in Montana its officials have taken a stand against Greeks and Italians; on the Pacific and nationally they are against the Japanese. Two International Socialist Congresses in succession have expressly repudiated S.P. racial superstitions, or rather racial craft Unionism.

Theoretic and practical Socialism recognizes the necessity of the economic organization of the proletariat as a necessary factor in the accomplishment of the Social Revolution, and the Stuttgart International Congress so declared. This notwithstanding the S.P. breathes the breath of craft Unionism, a system of

organization that, what with its contracts, its high initiations, its race lines, etc., etc., fractures the proletariat into the “organized” and the “unorganized” compelling the latter to “scab” upon the former, and the former themselves upon themselves.

Theoretic and practical Socialism, backed by the express declarations of the Amsterdam International Congress condemns “co-operation” with capitalist political parties. The S.P. flies in the face of all this. No later than this very Spring, one of the members of the St. Louis S.P. appeared on the Republican ballot, and the S.P. returned the capitalist compliment by placing upon its own ballot a candidate of the Democratic party.

Finally, so as to leave no doubt as to what the above facts portend, it is in consequence of a gratuitous appeal to the capitalist functionaries of the State of Pennsylvania by the S.P. that the S.L.P. is deprived of its name, and is deprived of it at so late an hour that it has no time to take the necessary measures to place its candidates upon the ballot under some other and proper designation.

By the light of these, if of no other facts, the appearance of the S.P. on, and the absence of the S.L.P. from the Pennsylvania ballot proclaims by emphasizing the absence of any party of Socialism in Pennsylvania this year. The absence of the S.L.P. ticket on that ballot is as eloquent as the blank columns in which occasionally some papers appear in European countries, when the censorship refuses the light of Reason to reach the public.

Deprived of a ticket to vote, the intelligent element of Pennsylvania will not vote for what it doesn't want, being unable to vote for what it does want; moreover, whatever is clearheaded enough in the State to learn from experience, even if formerly lured by the S.P., will this year see in the colors of that party a pirate's flag, unworthy of their support.

Next year comes another year. The S.L.P. banner will not down.

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