

EDITORIAL

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "NEW YORKER VOLKSZEITUNG" IN BERLIN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Berlin *Vorwaerts* of August 2 publishes this item under the head of "Berlin News, The Socialist Liedertafel of New York in Berlin":

"The General Commission of the Trades Unions sends the following notice:

"Under the above heading today's issue of the *Vorwaerts* has a report of a celebration held in the Trades Union Building in honor of the New York guests. According to the report a Comrade Jablinowski is said to have referred to the meeting which was held here two years ago, and at which Gompers spoke, and to have declared:

"**"In America the movement is not at all so homogeneous as Gompers represented it to be, two years ago. He, the speaker, could not yet understand why he was not given the floor on that occasion, notwithstanding he asked for it."**

"This assertion of Comrade Jablinowski's is taken from the clouds. On that occasion Jablinowski took a seat at the press table, and, quite accidentally, between the two Editors of the *Correspondenzblatt* [the organ of the General Commission of the Trades Unions.] Before the opening of the meeting Jablinowski introduced himself to one of these Comrades as the representative of the *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, and inquired whether there would be a discussion. Being answered that probably nobody in the hall would care to debate American conditions, Jablinowski declared **it was imperative that Gompers be answered.** Comrade Legien was thereupon informed of the presence of the representative of the *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, and he immediately ordered that a discussion be had. The same took, indeed, place. He who, however, did not ask for the floor was Comrade Jablinowski. On the contrary, he allowed himself to be called upon by Gompers as his leading witness on American immigration conditions, and with nods of his head and cheers he confirmed the explanations that Gompers gave to one who took part in the discussion. The conduct of Comrade Jablinowski who then fought and showed off so bravely, gave immediate occasion for witty commentaries at the press table.

"A mistake of identity is out of the question, seeing that Jablinowski

furnished our Comrades with his card.

“Berlin, July 31, 1913.

“The General Commission of the Trades Unions of Germany.”

Like master, like man.

The representative of the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* traveled far to represent by exhibiting that which he represented—a privately owned Socialist party concern that is a disgrace to the German people; a paper without convictions on anything, being on all things ignorant; without self-respect; all things to all men, as occasion may seem to serve; and moved by the sugar-sanding and molasses-watering bourgeois corner grocer impulse to “get there” and swagger, even at the expense of the proletariat,—hence, a thoroughly discredited “Geschaeftsblaetchen” (business sheet), as Frederick Sorge qualified it,¹ that has dropped from a one time 27,000 circulation to insignificance, and is the amusement of friend and foe.

Volkszeitung-Representative Jablinowski posed naturally: the General Commission of the Trades Unions of Germany and the *Vorwaerts* took the photo to perfection.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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¹ [Sorge? I thought it was Engels? Source needed.]