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EDITORIAL

TALKS LIKE THE VOLKSZEITUNG.

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A GENTLEMAN, referred to by a Western despatch as “a leading railroad man,” is reported to have said: “The railroad monopoly can not be destroyed by law or revolution without destroying the railway.” This language bears startling resemblance to that held by the Volkszeitung Corporation when it says of itself: “Our private ownership can not be destroyed without destroying the papers that we publish.” Indeed, the oneness of sentiment of the Corporation and the Railroad Companies is undeniable.

One day, the Railroad Companies declare that they are the people’s servants; the next day the people are informed by the Railroad Companies that these hold a “sacred public function” with which to meddle is treason.—One day the Volkszeitung Corporation declares, in words, that it is the property of its party; the next day it informs its party by acts that the party is its property.

One day, the Railroad Companies apply to the Government for subsidies on the plea that the roads can not subsist without Government support; the next day the Companies insist that it is they who support the Government.—One day, the Volkszeitung Corporation makes a poor mouth, and passes around the hat among the faithful, on the plea that its “loyalty to Cause leaves it no source of revenue but the Cause”; the next day the Corporation throws itself back on its hind legs and haughtily announces that it has “sacrificed its substance in support of the Cause,” whence the Cause is its debtor.

One day, the Railroad Companies furiously deny that they are a monopoly, in proof of which they show, as does the New York Central, that they are held by 10,000 different shareholders; another day, investigation shows that 4 men hold ninety-hundredths of the shares, and the majority of the stockholders, the other 9,900, are free to stand by, suck their thumbs and look on as the 100 cut their

capers, rake in the dividends, determine the salaries for themselves and otherwise dispose of the income.—One day the Volkszeitung Corporation pronounces it a “De Leonite Lie” that the Corporation is a private institution, responsible only to its sweet will; another day the Corporation asserts that only people who do not know what they are talking about would think of setting up a paper as public party property, and it proves its prerogative of doing as it likes by selling out the brewery employes to the brewery bosses for advertisements, and asking “kickers”: “What are you going to do about it?”

The Railroad Companies have their Depew, their Morton, their Shonts pets.—The Volkszeitung Corporation has its Niedermeyer pets, who run away with Union funds and its Braun pets, who sell workingmen on strike to Belmont.

The Railroad Companies have their Anna Goulds and Consuelo Vanderbilts to display in costly ducal palaces the wealth plundered from the railroad workers.—The Volkszeitung Corporation has its usurious money-lenders and other favorites display in tenements and other real estate investments the funds that it sponges up from the working class.

The parallel may be continued ad infinitum.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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