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EDITORIAL

## A PATH-FOLLOWER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HERE is no originality in the conduct of Mr. Herman Robinson, the A.F. of L. organizer and denouncer of Socialism, who has earned from the President an invitation to dine at the White House. Mr. Robinson is not a path-finder; the gentleman is merely an imitator, a path-follower.

The path-finders to Theodore Roosevelt's dining table were two gentlemen—Heinrich Weissmann, an ex-San Francisco anarchist dynamiter and, at the time now referred to, Editor of the *Bakers' Union Journal*, and Mr. Harry White, alias Krakowinsky, at the time a leading official of the Garment Workers' Union.

It was in the year of grace 1899; season, summer. Roosevelt had just been nominated the Republican candidate for Governor of the State of New York. Messrs. Weissmann and Krakowinsky, two A.F. of L. dignitaries and particular pets of Gompers, had just been distinguishing themselves as traducers of Socialism and Socialists: the former was, according to Messrs. Weissmann and Krakowinsky, the foe of "Law," "Order," "The Family," "Religion," "The State"; the latter were characterized by them as "rabid fanatics," "the enemies of the workingmen," etc. The first official act of nominee-for-Governor Theodore Roosevelt was to invite Messrs. Weissmann and Krakowinsky to a lunch. These were the path-finders.

Subsequent events ever cast light back upon previous events, the same as previous events ever cast light forward upon subsequent ones. The subsequent careers of Messrs. Weissmann and Krakowinsky illumine the nature of the path that they found. As to Mr. Weissmann, he gave up the Labor Movement; studied law; was retained by the boss bakers to fight the 9-hour bake-shop law, which, in his previous capacity of Editor of the *Bakers' Union Journal*, he had defended; was instrumental in causing the Court to declare the law unconstitutional; and was

presented by his clients, the baker bosses, with a “magnificent diamond breast pin” for his “loyal and valuable” services. As to Mr. Krakowinsky, his Union finally dumped him and brought and sustained an action against him for speculating in the manufacture of the Union’s label; besides, he figured in at least one case that involved the hiring of strike breakers and their shipment from New York to Chicago.

These be the path-finders, and that the path, Theodore Roosevelt’s dining table but a way-station with twenty minutes for refreshments. Mr. Herman Robinson, A.F. of L. organizer is now at that station.

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