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EDITORIAL

RENDERING HOMAGE TO THE S.L.P.

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IT is the familiar dodge with the wrongdoers in the Labor and Socialist Movement to pronounce the Socialist Labor Party a “disrupter.” When their wrong-doings are exposed, when their false principles are torn shreds, “Disrupter!” comes ready to their lips. Unable, of course, to make answer, conscious of guilt and of conviction at the bar the International Movement, the wrong-doers who seek to turn the Temple of the Labor Movement into a house for merchandise turn to bay, like cornered rats, and yell, “Disrupter!”

The present campaign furnishes two striking illustrations of all that “Disrupter!” means on the lips of the adversaries of the S.L.P.

A few weeks ago the office of the *Vorwaerts*, the Yiddish organ of the Socialist party, was the scene of a violent discussion on the campaign of the 9th Congressional District. The discussion being at its height, a woman, prominent in the Gompers style of unionism, happened to come in. Quickly she took a hand, siding emphatically with those who were grinding their teeth at the candidature of the S.L.P. candidate for Congress. After a violent tirade the woman sought to clinch her argument with the statement: “I care not how superior a man De Leon may be to Hillquit, De Leon is a disrupter. Wherever he is he disrupts. IF HE IS SENT TO CONGRESS HE WILL CREATE DISRUPTION THERE TOO!”

Stick a pin there.

The second illustration is furnished by Mr. Hillquit himself.

Unionism has learned that it does not suffice to unionize a town. It has learned that it does not suffice to unionize a State. It is learning that local unionism is worthless unless the unionism is planted upon a national and an international basis. This principle Socialism has long ago proclaimed. It is embodied in the motto: “Proletarians of all countries, unite!” Without the international unity of the

proletariat there can be no effective local unity. The practical application of the principle is embodied in the motto: "Liberal Immigration." For that very reason capitalism seeks to promote national and race animosities. Much as capitalism needs the immigrant, the same as it needs concentration of production, it seeks to foment the notion that the proletariat of other nations have "a lower standard of living." The practical result of this manoeuvre, especially in a country like America where all races are represented, is to cut up the proletariat now in the country into as many hostile fractions as there are nations. The capitalist manoeuvre is agreeable to racial vanities. The position of the International Congress is, of course, deady opposed to such a capitalist posture, and counteracts it by a posture that favors liberal immigration.

This notwithstanding, the S.P. has found its account in playing into the hands of capitalist chicanery. In two successive International Congresses the S.P. favored and introduced resolutions on immigration that were of such a shocking nature that they were hooted out and were pronounced to be "in violation of the fundamental principles of Socialism" (Report of Stuttgart Congress, p. 234), and which the delegate of the Russian Jewish Bund referred to, even more emphatically, in his report to his organization as having caused him to "FEEL AS IF CUT WITH A KNIFE." (Report of the Bund, 54.)

For four years the S.L.P. has argued against, exposed and denounced this betrayal of the cause of Socialism; and the emphasis of the S.L.P. exposure increased this year when the S.P. national convention, to the tune of "the hordes of Asia and Europe," again ratified its disgraceful posture on Immigration, with Mr. Morris Hillquit as a leading fogleman.

The S.L.P. exposure of facts was sneered at with complacency. Relying upon the noise their campaign raised, the S.P. officials and candidates expected the voice of the S.L.P. to be drowned. They were at perfect ease of mind and body—a contented lot. Suddenly their ease of mind was rudely "disturbed" and "disrupted": By raising its banner on the narrowed battlefield of the Ninth Congressional District, where Mr. Hillquit himself was sailing placidly along, the S.L.P. forced recognition of the important issue of Immigration. On that narrowed battlefield the clatter, the hurrah, the hysterics of the S.P. campaign at large was escaped. The minds were

left cool enough to hear other voices, and to think. To hear the voice of the S.L.P. is equivalent to thinking with the masses. The placid S.P. Hillquit campaign, on an anti-Immigration subsoil, ceased to be placid. Facts could no longer be ignored. As facts are stubborn things, to face them is to bump one's nose and knock it bloody. At this point the well known cry of all convicted malefactors in the Socialist and Labor Movement of the land could not fail. It did not fail. The essence of Mr. Hillquit's and his partisans' cry is—"Disrupter!"

The second illustration illustrates the first, as the first does the second.

True! Wherever the S.L.P. is, disturbance and disruption is certainly in store for Wrong, for Crookedness, or for False Reasoning injurious to the cause of International Socialism. In and out of Congress, wherever the S.L.P. is seen, there is no peace, no comfort, no restfulness for speculators upon the flesh and bone of the International Proletariat.

Unconscious to themselves, the Hillquit S.P.-ites render homage to S.L.P. intrepidity and rectitude.

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

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