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EDITORIAL

HOW FAR AWAY IS ENGLAND, ANYWAY?

By DANIEL DE LEON

E NGLAND must be very far away from the United States.

Here is Mr. T.P. O'Connor's London *T.P.'s Weekly* for October 21, 1910, with this passage:

“The great American representative of this form of propaganda [the General Strike] is Daniel De Leon. So convinced is he that Parliamentary action is only a leakage for revolutionary activity that he and his followers oppose Socialist candidates with a vigor even greater than that which is directed against Republican or Democrat.”

The picture here drawn is that of a physical forcist, pure and simple—an advocate of the General Strike and simultaneous opposer of Socialist political candidates.

Now the fact is that the individual so described is the Editor of the *Daily People*, the organ of—what? Of anything approaching even remotely the one-legged hobby of the General Strike to the exclusion of Socialist political action? Let us see.

As the representative of the American organization that the *Daily People* is the national organ of, the individual above pictured presented at the Socialist International Congress of 1907, held in Stuttgart, a resolution that contained the following passage:

“A truly revolutionary Socialist Movement requires imperatively both the political and the economic (Union) organization—the former for propaganda and struggle upon the civilized field of political action; the latter as the only conceivable force able to back up the ballot in an effective manner, and without which the ballot would become illusory.

“Without the political organization the Socialist Movement can never triumph; without the economic (syndical) organization the day of Socialist triumph would be the day of its defeat.

“Without the economic organization the Socialist Movement would

attract the politicians who would debauch and sell out the Movement; without the political organization the Socialist Movement would attract and breed the agents-provocateurs who would assassinate the Movement.”

Obviously, the element that the *Daily People* is the mouthpiece of can not be a pure and simple General Strike affair. It is in fact the organ of a political party—a Socialist political party—the Socialist Labor Party of America, with its tickets this very year in no less than twenty of the leading States of the land—a political party that stands flatfooted upon the declaration presented at Stuttgart, on account of which it fights the debauchery of pure and simple ballotism represented by the so-called Socialist party, a simultaneously fights the rowdyism of pure and simple bombism, represented under all sorts of masks, the mask of the Syndicalism, pure and simple, among others.

Can it be that England is so far away from America—so far away despite steam, electricity and wireless—that Mr. O’Connor can be stuffed by interested stuffers, or that the facts reach him in the blurred manner reproduced by him?

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