

EDITORIAL

LIMA AND SCHENECTADY—A CONTRAST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMONG the bushel of Mayors, elected last November by the Socialist party, were the Mayors of Schenectady, N.Y., and Lima, O.

A political party's organization stands, in the same Nation, substantially upon the same principles, wherever its sub-organizations may be. There may be some difference here and there. Nevertheless, fundamentally, the principles are one.

The oneness of the fundamentals with a political party appears best in acts that, superficially considered, seem different. In such instances, acts that are different call attention strongest upon the oneness of the trunk from which they branch off.

It so happens with the S.P. organizations of Lima and Schenectady above referred to.

In Schenectady, the workers in the locomotive works being on strike, and the S.P. Mayor, Dr. George R. Lunn, having undertaken to "settle" the strike by recommending to the men that they go back to work, the Schenectady S.P. organization took no action against him. With its silence the organization implied consent to, and approval of, its Mayor's conduct.

In Lima, the S.P. Mayor Corbin Shook, having ignored his fellow S.P. men in his political appointments, the Lima S.P. organization was roused to action with precision and despatch. It bounced the Mayor from the organization. By its act, the S.P. organization of Lima expressed, in manner not to be mistaken, its dissent from and disapproval of its Mayor.

Is the conduct of the Schenectady and the conduct of the Lima S.P. organization so different as to conclude that the conduct was in each instance a branch from a different trunk? Far from that. On the contrary. The two acts, by their contrast, il-

lumine each other; and their combined light illumines their common trunk.

The rudder of the S.P. is hammered together of bourgeois concepts and bourgeois aims. To try to settle a strike by ordering the proletariat on strike to go back to work is strictly in accord with the bourgeois conception of the fitness of things. On the other hand, a political job is the day and night dream of the bourgeois politician. To make something by doing nothing being a leading commandment in the catechism of bourgeois political economy, the political berth is the bourgeois's Seventh Heaven. To that end all his aspirations tend.

Consequently—

When the S.P. Mayor of Schenectady deported himself, in the matter of strike settling, agreeable to the bourgeois canons bearing on the matter, so far from his being bounced for betraying the working class, he was hugged to the palpitating bosom of his S.P. organization with a transport of gratification that left no room for words to express.

Contrariwise in Lima. When the S.P. Mayor deported himself, in the matter of distributing political pap, in a manner that scandalized the bourgeois canons bearing on the matter, so far from his being hugged in silent transports of joy to the palpitating bosom of his organization, he was kicked out with an obstreperous application of the “boot.”

The contrast presented by Schenectady and Lima is a heavy line drawn by the Genius of the Age underscoring the maxim—the Class that dominates a political party is the rudder of that political ship.

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