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EDITORIAL

THE RULE, NOT THE EXCEPTION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THERE always is danger of a man's noble impulses being used as a handle against himself and the very impulse that animates him. Scamps are always on the alert for just such handles. It is their only hope of salvation. They proceed from an instinct that is well known—the instinct which causes the thief to cry “Stop thief!”—the instinct that sacrifices scape-goats. The honest and serious men who have been roped into the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic, alias Public Ownership party, but who are catching a breath of Socialist Labor Party uncompromising honesty and soundness, together with a gleam of the Socialist Labor Party beacon light, and are now seriously and honestly denouncing Berger, should take care that their noble impulse be not turned into a handle against themselves and their purpose. The way the scamp on the alert manages is this: he joins the cry raised by honest men; by so doing he imparts the appearance of equal honesty to himself; and the upshot is that he usually saves the thing—scampishness—while he may be ready to sacrifice the individual scamp. It is not Berger that should be denounced, but Bergerism, and Bergerism is not limited to Milwaukee, or even Wisconsin; what, merely for the sake of convenience, may be termed Bergerism, is not a local but a national disease, it is not a partial, but a constitutional malady of the said party of many names. This point should be thoroughly understood.

What exactly is it that has happened in Milwaukee? By an overwhelming vote of the Social Democratic organization of that city, it was decided to set up no candidate for judge, and the spirit and purpose of the decision was made plain by the press of that organization. It recommends voting for one of the two capitalist candidates for the office in order to defeat the other. In other words, it resorted to the tactics of dicker-and-deal with the foe for opportunist purposes. This is, true

enough, a betrayal of the working class; but is the act anything new with the “Socialist” party, or is it, perchance, a Wisconsin “Socialist” party eccentricity, or a Milwaukee “Socialist” party localism? and is its advocacy a peculiarity of the *Social Democratic Herald* and *Wahrheit*?

Here in New York, at this end of the continent, we saw only two weeks ago, the “Socialist” party man Moses Bauma, alias Morris Brown, figure on a Committee that appeared before Belmont, and, under the colors of Labor, confessed the Interborough strikers guilty of “breach of contract.” It was an opportunist dicker-and-deal with the capitalist.—What’s the difference between Bauma and Berger?

We saw Algernon Lee and Herman Schlueter, two employees of the Volkszeitung Corporation, jointly with Moses Hilkwitz, alias Morris Hilquit,—all three “Socialist” party or Social-Democratic party men—sign at Amsterdam an anti-immigration resolution, that was an insult to Socialism and the Working Class in that it spoke of backward RACES and tried to keep them out, all for the opportunistic purpose of propitiating the Gompers Labor lieutenants of the capitalist class.—What’s the difference between Lee, Schlueter, Hilquit and Berger?

In Chicago this very month we saw the “Socialist” party local set up an opportunist municipal platform, and thus dicker-and-deal with bourgeois interests.—What’s the difference between Chicago and Milwaukee?

In Kansas we see Professor Will, the State Secretary of the same “Socialist” party, place in his own organ the demand for an “increased per capita of circulating medium” as a Socialist demand, and thus dicker-and-deal opportunistically with the middle class.—What’s the difference between Kansas and Wisconsin?

The Girard, Kans., *Appeal to Reason* publishes opportunistic advertisements to get rich quick, and help along Socialism.—What’s the difference between the *Appeal to Reason* and the Milwaukee *Wahrheit* and *Social Democratic Herald*?

In Cleveland, O., we saw the “Socialist” party man Max Hayes deny that the stockyard men—a strike that was lost through the scabbery of Gompers’ pets—went down in defeat, and thus opportunistize with the capitalist class via its Labor-Lieutenants; and we saw him afterwards vote for Gompers for President.—What’s the difference between Hayes and Berger?

In St. Louis, also this very month, we saw the “Socialist” party local

promulgate a municipal declaration that dickered-and-dealt opportunistically with the capitalist principle of dividing the proletariat by lines of bourgeois citizenship.—What’s the difference between St. Louis and Milwaukee?

In Massachusetts we saw the “Socialist” party State convention adopt an opportunist Trust plank, and thus dicker-and-deal with the capitalist foe.—What’s the difference between Massachusetts and Wisconsin?

We have seen the “Socialist” party *New Yorker Worker* of last January 15, opportunistically publish a full page advertisement (and opportunistically pocket the money therefor) of a capitalist concern, the advertisement being headed with the atrocious, and, to the workingman’s mind, poisonous lie “The Protection of One Million Families.”—What’s the difference between the *New Yorker Worker* and the *Wahrheit* or the *Milwaukee Social Democrat[ic Herald]*?

No difference whatever, all along the line!

Whatever the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic, alias Public Ownership party meant to hide, its speech was smoother than it meant it to be when it declared that the only difference between it and the Socialist Labor Party was the attitude of the two on Unionism. The difference is fundamental; it blossoms with the Socialist Labor Party into triumphant soundness, and with the “Socialist” party into all sorts of opportunism on top. From the mud of Stone-Gompers-Mitchell pure and simpledom on which the “Socialist” party, alias Social Democratic party, alias Public Ownership party is planted, nothing can come but the dust of the “Intellectuals” and fakirs’ domination, which raises the further dust of corruption and betrayal of Labor, not over the Milwaukee concern alone, but, as we have proved above, throughout the land.

The honest and clarified “Socialist” party men must look out against being trepanned by the “Intellectual” Fakir cry that is being raised against Berger and Milwaukee; they should follow up the action of the Cincinnati “Socialist” party local—the [“Eleventh Explosion—More to Come”](#)—found in this issue, by resolving to revoke, not the charter of Milwaukee only, but the charter of the whole opportunist ranch into which they were roped. Matured by the experience that they gathered in the camp of their “broad” and “tolerant” concern, they must now be ripe to appreciate the “narrowness” and “intolerance” of the Fighting S.L.P., which, true

to its name, has only war for the foe.

ELEVENTH EXPLOSION

MORE TO COME

LOCAL CINCINNATI, SOCIALIST PARTY,

Headquarters, 1252 Elm Street.

W.W. Larimer, Corresponding Secretary, 571 Delta ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Cincinnati, O., April 7, 1905.

Editor *Weekly People*,
New York.

Comrade:—The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the City Central Committee of Local Cincinnati, S.P., and copies ordered sent to the party press.

Fraternally,

W.W. Larimer, Cor. Sec'y.

To Whom It May Concern:—

Resolved, That the C.C.C. of Local Cincinnati, Socialist Party, hereby endorse the action of national committeeman Trautmann from Ohio, in demanding that the National Committee ask the State Committee of Wisconsin to investigate the conditions in Milwaukee, whence the Local and Press first advocated to refrain from nominations and afterward the C.C.C. and Press endorsed and asked all Socialists to vote for a capitalist candidate. Be it further

Resolved, That we condemn the action of Victor L. Berger in making a personal attack on our national committeeman, in the *Social Democratic Herald*, and other papers; such conduct we believe to be improper because it confuses the issue and as not being in line with Socialist tactics.

Resolved further, That inasmuch as the refusing to nominate and the endorsement of said capitalist candidate was done with the full knowledge and consent (according to Berger) of Local Milwaukee, that the State Committee of Wisconsin shall declare the local charter of Milwaukee revoked and send an

organizer there to reorganize the city, failing in this the National Committee shall declare the charter of Wisconsin revoked and proceed at once to reorganize the state.

Resolved further, That Victor L. Berger be unseated as a member of the National Committee.

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

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