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SECOND EDITORIAL

“INDIVIDUALS AND ELEMENTS OF STRENGTH.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

IF all the “individuals and elements of strength,” who charge the Socialist Labor Party with having “alienated” them, and, but for whose “alienation” the S.L.P. would be now polling some twenty million votes, more or less, would only gird up their loins and gather themselves together, what a formidable political phalanx and center of strength would they not constitute!

At the head of the procession would march, as chief fugleman, the local populist luminary Mr. W.J. Ghent of the City of New York, County and State of New York, while the rear post of honor would be filled by Mr. W.C. Owen, who dusted from California to New York and then dusted back to California via England leaving a betrayed wife behind. In between these “individuals and elements of strength” would be ranked, in order of seniority, a half baker’s dozen of gutter snipe reporters; a Fabian statesman and a stateswoman, who, finding their own British Isles too narrow a field for their powers, have kindly condescended to bestow themselves upon the American people, and statesmanize and stateswomanize them out of the wilderness of capitalism, incidentally also to purify the S.L.P. of the “rubbish” of Marxism; an expelled member or two of the German Social Democratic party, expelled for breach of trust and other feats appertaining to “individuals and elements of strength;” two or three portents of “strength,” who joined the S.L.P. with the expectation of a job, failed to be appreciated, and were thus “alienated;” a little brigade by itself of bankrupt “pure and simple” leaders, one from Germany via California, an other from Holland via England, a third from Canada via Boston, others from nobody knows where, some of whom expect political jobs, a few of whom

got a job, and all of whom are hankering after boodle political bones to gnaw at; one Pollack who whitewashed his name; and lastly one 250 pound perambulating scrap-book and historic junk shop that has repeatedly been "alienated," and periodically joins the "elements of strength."

What a choice collection! One half of them, taken at random, would make the fortune of any Chatham square dime museum.

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