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EDITORIAL

## “TIGHT” AND “LOOSE” ORGANIZATION.

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**A** Cincinnati, O., correspondent raises a certain objection that deserves special treatment, inasmuch as it offers an unusual opportunity by which to vindicate the wisdom that guides the councils of the Socialist Labor Party.

Our correspondent is of the correct opinion that “it cannot but be admitted that Socialism is taught only by the S.L.P.,” nevertheless, he concludes that it “can all be of no avail,” because “so tightly organized and disciplined a party” could never expect to be “attractive to the mass of the voters.” Our correspondent elaborates this point, and supplements it with the observation that “even the Socialist parties that are organized upon a broader structural principle, have shown themselves unable to rally a sufficiently large number of voters to their standard. No Socialist political party will achieve the Social Revolution. The disease has too much the lead of the physician. The Socialist Republic will come, must come; but it will not emerge out of the dust of the battle of ballots, it will rise out of the smoke of battle delivered and won by the masses of the American people, who will have grown tired of trying.”

If this reasoning means anything, it means this:

“Political action is useless. The revolution can be the product of organized physical force only; this alone will raise the Socialist Republic; all political organizations, whether tightly or loosely constructed, are vain.”

Granted, for the sake of argument, that the above premises are correct and the Socialist Republic can emerge from the battle field only, never from the hustings; granted, for the sake of argument, that such premises are correct, then the conclusion must be just the reverse of that arrived at by our Cincinnati correspondent. In the very measure that one is certain that force must be the arbiter, a tightly constructed political organization becomes necessary.

The principal purpose of a revolutionary political organization must be to EDUCATE. How are the masses to be educated upon Socialism unless sound instruction be imparted to them? And how can sound instruction proceed from an

organization that is loosely constructed? The instruction, that such an organization will bestow, cannot choose but be as loose as the organization itself from which it proceeds; it will reflect the looseness of thought that distinguishes its parent. Those, who, according to our correspondent, are to lay upon the battle field the foundation of the Socialist social structure, must have been tutored in Socialist architecture. Our correspondent admits that such instruction proceeds to-day only from the Socialist Labor Party camp. His admission, coupled with his premises, constitutes additional testimony to the wisdom of the S.L.P.

Let the issue be what it may—peaceful or violent—EDUCATION is the watchword of the day. To spread EDUCATION broadcast through the land there must be an organization in charge of the work. Such organization must be fearless, merciless in its logic, intolerant as science, narrow as Truth alone can be. It can be none of these if it compromises as much as a hair’s breadth; in other words, it can not perform its work if it is structurally loose.

Idle is the cry of numbers. Silly are all tears, or jeers, as the case may be, on the S.L.P. vote. The S.L.P. knows itself. All it needs is an organization sufficiently tight to keep out water, and devoted enough to enable it to carry on its work of EDUCATION, unflaggingly, relentlessly.

If a peaceful solution be still possible, the light-tower from which alone the light of Socialism has been shooting its rays across the thick, black clouds that rolled upon it, is bound to be the rallying point for the masses.

If a peaceful solution shall have become impossible, then, gladly will the light-tower of the S.L.P. share in the general ruin, conscious that, while its peaceful aspirations suffered shipwreck with all its rivals, yet only the light it alone spread survives, powerful enough to organize Tumult into Intelligent Action.

By all means the S.L.P.!

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

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