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EDITORIAL

FATED MOTHS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WOULD it be at all possible for the editors or officers of the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party, to breathe without thinking of the Socialist Labor Party? Obviously not. Like moths, the law of whose existence is to rush to the burning light and singe themselves to a crisp, these Bogus Socialists, whatever the subject they may have in hand, even their most intimate internal affairs, can not choose but drag in the S.L.P. or the Editor of *The People*.—and regularly, of course, fare like the moth. A striking incident in point is that of the Bogus Socialists' national secretary, William Maily.

Mr. R.C. Massey, national committeeman of the said Socialist party for North Dakota, having found fault with his national secretary, Maily, and scented rottenness in some of this gentleman's boon companions, freely expressed his views. The two exchanged epistolary compliments, and the correspondence is given in full in their press. Now, the following is one of the passages in which Mr. Maily defends his boon companion, Chas. R. Martin of Tiffin, O., against the North Dakota man:

“Martin was also one of those who opposed Jas. R. Sovereign (who is now fighting Socialism in Idaho) when that traitor united with De Leon, and Martin was afterwards shut out of the New Orleans Convention of the Knights of Labor in 1893 through a combination of these two and Jno. W. Hayes.”

What on earth has De Leon's name got to do with this Maily-Martin-Massey squabble? Why at all drag him in? But the moth cannot avoid its fate. So let moth-Maily take his singeing.

There are four names—Sovereign, De Leon, Martin and John W. Hayes—mentioned in the above passage. There is a fifth missing—Terrence V. Powderly. The facts of record in the episode, and against which no fact of record is adducible,

are these:

At the Philadelphia convention (1893) of the K. of L., Terence V. Powderly was tried and convicted, by documentary evidence and the books of the Order, of having appropriated to his own use moneys that had been just previously contributed to the aid and support of the Coeur d'Alene and Homestead strikers, and which had been so contributed upon a call from Powderly himself to their aid. The convention divided into two—a majority that screened Powderly, and a minority that condemned him, and demanded his overthrow. Martin and De Leon were in that convention. On what side were they found? De Leon stood on the side of the minority that branded Powderly and demanded his overthrow, Martin lined up with the majority that justified, and upheld the scamp for re-election.

Martin won out in that instance, but the victory of his majority was short-lived. It did not last a day. Immediately upon his re-election, which Powderly pronounced his “vindication,” this gentleman proceeded to outrage decency in such manner, in the matter of the nominees to the G.E.B., that a turmoil arose, and Powderly speedily adjourned the session to the next day.

On the next day, immediately after routine matters, a motion was made to declare Powderly's seat vacant, on the ground of his unregenerate unfitness. Who made that motion?—De Leon, who was correctly, though furiously, pointed out by the Martins as “representing the S.L.P.” The previous day's conduct of Powderly had forfeited from him several members of his original majority, not yet enough to turn the scales, but exactly enough to make a tie—a determined dead-lock against Powderly. A stubborn battle then ensued. It lasted four days, and ended only when Powderly rolled in the dirt. When Powderly rolled in the dirt, he rolled along with whom? With Chas. R. Martin, who had stood weepfully by him, on account of which Martin received at the convention the name of “Weeping Charley.”

Sovereign was not at the convention. De Leon had never met him, and knew of him only as a well meaning but uninformed laborite. The element that had stood by De Leon in his fight against the reprobate Powderly, and that finally grew into a majority, nominated Sovereign, and De Leon supported him.

The next year, at New Orleans (that convention was 1894, not 1893) Powderly and his fellows, Martin's among them, prowled around the convention. Some of

them were entitled to seats, and were admitted. Others, Martin among them, carried fraudulent credentials and were excluded. Powderly's corruption being established, the convention did all that was legitimate and succeeded in preventing such an ulcer from regaining the upperhand. Thereupon the ulcer decamped in the tender custody of Martin.

The year after that, when Sovereign proved himself a hopeless ignoramus, and, together with the other general officers of the Order, even began to give evidences of corruption, De Leon took his stand against them, as he had done against Powderly before, and his District, D.A. 49, the largest of all, pulled out with all the property, and thus dumped Sovereign.

From the above facts—all matters of public notoriety—it follows:

1st—De Leon was allied with Sovereign when Sovereign was still straight; when Sovereign became a crook, De Leon turned upon and dumped him, the same as he did Powderly;

2d—Martin allied himself with Powderly and against Sovereign when the former was convicted of crookedness, and nothing was yet on record to the discredit of the latter; and

3d—William Maily, as he says himself, has known, loved and admired Martin for 9 years past, that is, after Martin's character was soiled with the soilure of his support of the crook and robber of Labor, Powderly.

No wonder Mr. Maily, the creature of the Volkszeitung corporation, "loves and admires" Chas. R. Martin. Birds of a feather flock together.

There goes one more moth. Next!

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

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