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EDITORIAL

THE SOCIALIST PARTY A “SOUTH SEA BUBBLE.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

A FISTFUL of *Provokers*—the Socialist party organ of Thomas J. Morgan, Esq., Attorney and Counsellor at Law, 79 Dearborn street, Chicago, patent business attended to with neatness and dispatch, fees pocketed while you wait,—just received at this office, satisfies one that *The Provoker* really satisfies “a long felt want.”

Long has the want been felt of a compilation of the fraudulent advertisements published in the privately owned journalistic ventures that go by the collective name of “the Socialist party press.” The long felt want is beginning to be met by the *Provoker*. It cites the “lying advertisements” about “\$5,000 to \$7,000 per year earned on ten-acre Florida farms,” while the average income from farms in Florida is \$119. It cites a ten column article to boom the stocks of the “National Co-operative Mercantile Co., 100,000 shares”; of the “Co-Industrial Co., 500,000 shares”; of the “National Dairy Co., 25,000 shares”; and of the “Educational Press Co.,” connected with which are “the International Floor Polishing Co., .250,000 shares; the Girard [Kans.] Airship Co., 20,000,000 shares; the Girard [Kans.] Food Co.; the People’s Wholesale Co-Operative Co., 20,000 shares reserved for Socialist [party] Locals and other enterprises of which these stock-selling schemes are a type.” It cites the advertisements of one Crook wherein “Million Dollars in Forty Weeks” are promised. It cites a many column boost of “National Committeeman Kaplan’s 300,000 stock jobbing scheme.” It cites “display advertisements in the ‘Daily Socialist’ April 2, 1910, of the Metropolitan Trust and Savings Bank, and controlled by City Comptroller Wilson, City Hall, and the Western Trust and Savings Bank,” and it suggests that “Editor-in-Chief Simons”—“Intellectual agitation” may be “so safe and sane as to be worthy of the support of the Chicago

bankers." The *Provoker* cites these and many more such fishy advertisements, advertisements, all published in the Chicago *Daily Socialist*, a paper, *The Provoker* adds, that the following "comrades" are directors, editors and managers of: "National Committeeman Barney Berlyn, President Board of Directors Carl Strover, Editor-in-Chief A.M. Simons," etc.

This is a good beginning. 'Tis to be hoped *The Provoker* will find leisure enough to turn its searchlight upon the Girard, Kans., *Appeal to Reason*, the New York *Call*, the New York *Volkszeitung* and the rest of these "S.P. Publications." They all need "revealing," and thereby explain the deep malignant hatred of the S.P.-er for the S.L.P. man.

In the meantime, and awaiting these fuller compilations, the question comes, How can the conclusion be escaped that the S.P. is a concern to float bogus schemes whereby to catch suckers with the bait of "Socialism" and "Comrade," a twentieth century "South Sea Bubble"?

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