

EDITORIAL

## UNION SQUARE; OR EXHIBITION NO. 1.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**T matters not, for the proper appreciation of the riot that took place at the Union Square open air May Day demonstration, held under the auspices of Local New York, Socialist party, whether the American flag was intentionally “trampled under foot,” or whether the trampling happened as an unpremeditated incident of the riot. What is of real, of first-magnitude importance is that the rioting, together with its discreditable incidents, was the work of the Anarchist body known as the I’m-a-bummery, which piratically sails under the colors of the I.W.W.

Indeed, it was “A shame!” But the shame lies deeper than in the rioting itself. It lies in the circumstance that the rioters were the nasty pets whom the “tactics” of the Officialdom and Press of the aforementioned Local of the S.P. caused the Local, to hug to its bosom.

Not with impunity can a political party, that flies the colors of International Socialism, betray the cause of Socialism by rendering aid and comfort to advocates of theft as “a means of class expropriation”; to advocates of murder as “a weapon of class emancipation”; to advocates of “striking at the ballot box with an ax” as the sign manual of radicalism; and to advocates of “revolutionary” strikes as a means to collect funds which leaders embezzle and on which they live in clover while the workers are bayoneted to death by militias, or clubbed into jails—in short, of Anarchy.

Not with impunity can a political party that claims to “represent the working class” sacrifice the interests of proletarians, engaged in the battle of a strike, by echoing the slanders that are uttered against these by the employers’ press in the interest of Anarchists, bent upon introducing dissension and discouragement among the workers on the firing line.

Not with impunity can a political party, that, calling itself Socialist, has the

duty to spread the light, instead of spreading the light, find its account in helping brawlers to desecrate the dignity of Free Speech by applying the name to riot.

Not with impunity can a political body linked with International Socialism accept coppers and promises of votes in exchange for disregarding the lessons, experience and warnings of the International Movement, and hitch up with agents-provocateurs-breeding-and-attracting Anarchy.

In short, not with impunity can a party of Socialism immolate the interests of the Proletariat upon the altars of its own Private Malice towards the Socialist Labor Party.

All these several sins, all used in each degree, the Officialdom and Press and Agencies of Local New York, S.P., have been and continue to be guilty of in alliance with the Bummary, in the stupid-wicked imagining that they can “slander the S.L.P. out of existence.”

By an inevitable chain of cause and effect the Union Square exhibition took place under, and bespattered with its mud the banner of Local New York, S.P.,—an exhibition that the identical chain of cause and effect will yet again rehearse upon a larger scale.

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