

EDITORIAL

THE VIENNA DEMONSTRATION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FULL reports are now in of the funeral of Dr. Franz Schumeier in Vienna. More than half a million people—some reports have it that the number exceeded 750,000—followed the funeral cortege and lined the streets. A large train of carriages and other vehicles loaded with wreaths added to the impressiveness of the solemnity. An enormous number of deputations from the provinces, besides other parts of Europe, attested to the fact that the occasion was of vastly more than local significance.

What was the occasion?

A Christian Socialist and anti-Semite named Kundschack, had assassinated a Socialist as the latter was alighting from a train in Vienna.

There are shots that are heard around the world. Kundschack's shot was one of these.

Dr. Schumeier was a man whose array of facts, and conclusions therefrom, could not be shaken. Nor was he one who dealt in hollow phrases. He called things by their names, and the doers of the things along with the things themselves. Remorselessly he tore the cover from social iniquities, and remorselessly put his finger upon the iniquity. "An ulcer on the face of the city" was the designation with which he characterized a Mayor whose misconduct he exposed; "ulcers on the face of the earth," he characterized the clerical agencies of the capitalist class, after exposing their chicaneries. Intimidation could not cause the man to falter in his heroic work; "argument" against his solid phalanx of facts and conclusions was spent fruitlessly. Unable to silence the intrepid Socialist, the agents of capitalism in Austria took the advice of Father John L. Belford of the Church of the Nativity in Brooklyn, and silenced him like "a mad dog," with a bullet.

No wonder that shot is of those that are heard around the world—it proclaims the mental and moral bankruptcy of the Ruling Class, their prelatical menials included.

No wonder the shot evoked the answer of the tremendous and solemn Socialist demonstration that Vienna was the theater of, a demonstration in which all Austria-Hungary participated, together with the rest of the world lying near enough to be represented.

No wonder the Police kept in the background, not the slightest occasion for their interference being available.

Silence often is the most eloquent speech. It was the speech of the Vienna demonstration.

It is in silence that men think. The mass-silence of the Vienna demonstration also has been heard around the world.

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