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EDITORIAL

THE "PITTSBURGH SOCIALIST."

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE official organ of the Pittsburgh, Pa., Socialist party—the *Pittsburgh Socialist*—has undertaken a big contract. The contract is nothing less than to fight Haywood Anarchy with Socialist party Politicianism.

The papers purpose, together with the impossibility of the accomplishment of the same, is graphically illustrated by a cartoon that the irony of fate led it to blazon on the front page of its issue of the 11th instant.

"Big Business," represented by J. Pierpont Morgan, sits, in sparse swimming tights accoutred, crouching on a rock labeled "Private Property." Around J.P.M.'s head a swarm of mosquitoes, labeled "Direct Actionists," are buzzing. At his feet lies a seething pool labeled "Socialist Party." J.P.M. looks sorely annoyed between the upper and the nether affliction.

Mosquitoes have their breeding place, not on trees, but on water. It is on sheets of water that the larvae are deposited, which evolve into the wrigglers, which finally take shape in the nuisance of the buzzing and the poisonous mosquito. So far as the cartoon of the *Pittsburgh Socialist* goes, the sheet of water of the Socialist party is the only one from which the mosquitoes that are buzzing in the air and stinging J.P.M. could have come from.

And that is the case exactly.

With not a sentence, with not a line, with not a word does S.P. literature indicate, let alone proclaim, the mission of the political body of Socialism to be the preaching of those principles which make for the ranking of the land's proletariat in the integrally industrial organization, which, conscious of its mission, shall be able to furnish the physical force necessary for the achievement of the Social Revolution. On the contrary, whether on the political rostrum, or at A.F. of L. conventions, the S.P. man, trained by S.P. literature, preaches and practices the dogma of "neutral-

ity" on the Union Question, in utter disregard of the philosophy of Socialism which establishes the principle that the goal of the Social Revolution is the overthrow of the Political State, and that the Political State can not be overthrown without the Industrial State is there to do the job, and to step into the shoes of Government.

Nor does S.P. literature and conduct leave the obverse of that fatal medal without the S.P. stamp.

Not satisfied with yelling "Vote!" "Vote!" and "Vote!" only, "Anything for a Vote!", S.P. literature, agitation and propaganda emphasizes its utter disregard of the mission of Unionism by calumniously denouncing the Socialist Labor Party as a "Union Wrecker" for exposing the scabby, hence, criminally un-Unionistic life of the Civic-Federationized and Militia-of-Christized A.F. of L. Finally, and logically enough from its pure and simple politician premises, the S.P. has illustrated the fact that its cry of "Neutrality!" in Union affairs actually means war upon Socialist or Marxian Unionism. After first falling like a pile of bricks over the I.W.W., when organized upon Marxian lines, the S.P. thereupon—just so soon as raw-boned Bakounistic, theft, arson, and even murder-preaching, in short, "sabotage"—extolling elements clad themselves in the name of the I.W.W.,—hugged the Anarch pack to its heart. Any club was viciously thought good, and was fatuously considered strong enough to smash the S.L.P. ideal.

From the first National Convention of the S.P., when the S.P. pronounced the misdemeanors of the A.F. of L. a "noble waging of the class struggle," down to the present day—when the S.P. press, with its silence, condoned the infamy of its nasty pet Max Hayes, who at the Rochester convention of the A.F. of L. glorified scabbery—the S.P. consistently persevered in its policy of pure and simple political Socialism,—a policy tersely characterized by Marx as "parliamentary idiocy."

"Actio equivalet reactio" is the classic Latin motto—like action, like re-action. What more natural than the reaction of Bakouninism from the action of parliamentary idiocy!

Huger than the job, of building a lasting lock-canal on the earthquake soil of Panama, is the contract of the *Pittsburgh Socialist* to extirpate the "Direct Action" mosquito from over the Socialist party marsh.

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