

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 143.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1902.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THEIR “EDUCATION.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

ON the desk before us there lies—ready to be transferred in a few moments to our archives labeled “Multi-cocoania”—a Social Democratic campaign leaflet, used in the recent campaign. The leaflet is addressed “To the Public,” and is signed “Edward Holzschuh,” Social Democratic, alias “Socialist” party candidate for Alderman in Jersey City, N.J. A few passages from this document will convey an idea of the whole of it, together with a pretty clear view of the confused and incoherent nature of the “hosts that are to overthrow the capitalist system in America.”

Says Mr. Holzschuh:

“I stand, first of all, in the interest of the whole people.”

You don’t say so? You, then, admit the Socialist Labor Party contention that you are no better than the Democratic and the Republican politicians, who also claim the impossibility of “representing the whole people”?

The hosts, that are to storm and overthrow the capitalist citadel, may not need, do not need to be familiar with all the minutely defined ramifications of Socialist theory; but without they are drilled in the elemental evolutions and handling of the arms needed for the occasion, they will be a mob. Such an elemental and fundamental drill for Socialist success is the fact that it is impossible to “stand for the interests of the whole people.” The interests of the Working Class are exactly the opposite of the interests of the Capitalist Class. He who represents the one must be opposed to the other. Masses, drummed together “against Capitalism,” and ignorant of this fact, and captained by such Ignorance, can but be a mob that the capitalist can easily crush.

But Mr. Holzschuh has heard about the Socialist Labor Party, and has passed his eyes over its literature. As a genuine Social Democratic chieftain, he stands in awe

before S.L.P. teachings, knows they are daringly sound,—and likes to crib them. But as in all such cases he handles the plagiarism clumsily, and is blissfully ignorant of the contradiction he incurs. Accordingly, Mr. Holzschuh, right after announcing himself in the “interests of the whole people,” declares:

“I stand squarely” upon the principle that “insists that the only man worthy of protection is the working man.”

How is that for the right arm being at fisticuffs with the left? The crowd, hurrahed together for “Socialism,” and fed upon such contradictory doctrine, can have as much cohesion as a jelly fish. Every man in the revolutionary Army of Socialism must be clear on his object. Contradictory teachings may hurrah together a rope of sand, they can never organize “hosts of MEN.”

And of the nature of the “education” above given, is the “education” of the Social Democracy throughout the land. It is so in Ohio, markedly so in Illinois and in distant California; and, looking nearer, not in New Jersey only, but in Massachusetts and this very State of New York, we find it the same. In fact, everywhere. Everywhere, one idea knocks out the other; one principle is in the hair of others; one theory is at war with other theories and practices of the Social Democracy.

Numbers, without the bond that only sound, because consistent, agitation can bind a body with, is but a shifting sand bank. “Everything to all men” may be a profitable business plan for the Social Democratic leaders, but what of the numbers themselves, the dupes thus corralled?

Fortunately for these numbers, there stands, squarely across the path of these ignorant, corrupt and designing Social Democratic leaders, the imperturbable Socialist Labor Party, whose work of agitation, education and organization will avert a social catastrophe.

Mr. Holzschuh’s document will now take its place on our file with the other documentary proofs of Social Democratic corruption and unfitness; and it is there for inspection in this office.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded October 2006