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EDITORIAL

THE TRIBE OF BARANOV.

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A SUPERFICIAL reading of the article by M. Baranov upon the condition of his Socialist party, translated from the Jewish S.P. organ, the New York *Vorwaerts*, by Comrade Abraham Levine, and published elsewhere in this issue,¹ might cause the Socialist Labor Party reader to clap his hands enraptured saying:

“Why, he is coming our way! Indeed, he has arrived: everything he says, that is at all important, the S.L.P. has all along been maintaining, and maintaining in the teeth of the bitterest of S.P. invective, and the grossest of S.P. jeers. All this—the S.P. policy of overlooking the crimes of the guilds called Unions, and of even echoing these guilds’ crimes, as for instance, the anti-immigration crime, and thereby coquetting with reaction; of yielding to middle class instincts, to the extent of giving up Socialism in the interest of the farming bourgeoisie, and thereby leaving the bourgeois soul uncleansed and the proletariat mind uninstructed—all this is admitted by him, and further is admitted the S.L.P. charge that the S.P. is owned by its leaders, who have constituted themselves into an aristocracy, demanding blind obedience from an unthinking rank and file, notwithstanding these leaders are a shallow lot. He admits all this, nor does he omit the point, so often insisted upon by the S.L.P., that a bona fide party of Socialism, to-day, must be essentially educational, and, where it is not, and is mainly a vote-catching concern, it is bound to be left in the lurch, and suffer utter shipwreck, as he admits his S.P. is on the point of suffering. Why let, us applaud him.”

“Do you, perchance, object that this Baranov himself was an upholder of the very S.P. sins of commission and omission that he now condemns, and that he was in the front ranks of those who malignantly denounced and grossly reviled the

¹ [To be appended—R.B.]

S.L.P. for insisting upon what he now himself insists upon? That's all true, but let us see in him the returning prodigal."

True enough there should be more joy over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety and nine just persons. The Baranov of the present article, however, is no repentant sinner. One passage in his article proves him wedded, now as ever before, to his false gods; proves, accordingly, that whatever of sense and soundness he now utters is lip-service only. What is of still more importance, the passage is a flashlight upon the Tribe of Baranov. The passage in question is that which expresses the sentiment that for the foreigner to become "Americanized" is to become "Yellow."

This is the essential feature of the Tribe of Baranov; their central feature; the feature that determines all the other lines of their mental physiognomy—a supercilious affectation of superiority towards things American; a feature, accordingly, that marks them bizarre, whenever they presume to step forward as leaders, and which insures in advance the clown's tumblings and the final downfall of whatever Movement they "figure" in.

The Tribe of Baranov is the monopoly of no one race. All the races of the many represented in America have the Tribe. Most significant of all, and important in the understand of the sterility of the Tribe, the "natives," aye, they also have a Tribe of Baranov.

The Tribe of Baranov is not terrestrial. Their mind, or their soul is Abroad, imagining the ideal to be there, hence looking upon America as "Yellow." Since, however, their bodies are not Abroad, they do not live Abroad either, and can have a false conception only of things there. Living not here, and living not Abroad, they live in an Abroad that does not exist. In short the Tribe of Baranov is up in the air, which explains the antics, at once, of the "native" A.M. Simonses in seeking to get up a Labor Party "as in England"; the antics of *Volkszeitung* Germans in warning, as the *Volkszeitung* does in its issue of the 5th of this month, against American candidates; and, in short, the antics of Mr. Baranov himself, after whom the Tribe should be named, of pretending to profound knowledge of America in contrast to Abroad, and forthwith pronouncing the Americanized immigrant "Yellow."

Understanding the essence of the Tribe, such articles as the one in to-day's

issue will raise no false hopes, while their real value will be appreciated: “Seest thou a man who is hasty of his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.”

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