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EDITORIAL

POLITICAL PLUMBING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SOME innocent people imagine that the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party is in politics. The concern is in the plumbing business, its occupation is “laying pipes.” Now to the proof.

Several months ago, driven by the lashings of the Socialist Labor Party, which proved that “Socialist” party of aliases to be everything but that which it represented itself—not a revolutionary party for the emancipation of the working class, but a loving brother of the old capitalist parties, fusing with them right and left,—its National Committee took a bath. It seemed to cleanse itself of the defilement of fusion and to turn a new leaf. It did so by a resolution. The resolution pronounced against fusion in future and damned the practice. That was seven months ago.

Seven months elapse, and now the National Secretary of the concern, with headquarters at Omaha, makes a report, in which this passage occurs:

“A motion to strike out the words, ‘At the present stage of development of the Socialist movement of this country there is neither necessity nor excuse for such an alliance,’ from the anti-fusion resolutions adopted by the National Committee at St. Louis, in February last, presented by National Committeeman Mills of Kansas, under date of April 1st, was adopted by a vote of 17 to 5.”

In other words, the decision not to fuse has been reconsidered and repealed, and “at the present stage of development of the Socialist movement of this country there is both necessity and excuse for fusion.” Which, again, means that the concern has decided to resume business at the old stand, and is now laying its pipes to fuse with any old thing.

The Bogus Socialist party has fused with Republicans in some places, with

Democrats in others, with Republicans and Democrats simultaneously in still others, and everywhere it is in perpetual fusion with the Demo.-Rep. labor fakirs who deal in strikes. To pronounce against fusion is to cut its own throat. It imagined it could imitate the S.L.P. in the matter of uncompromising politics. It found out it could not. And now that elections are approaching it hastens to lay anew the pipes through which the fluid may flow that makes it kin with all that Socialism is at war with in the land.

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