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EDITORIAL

HARMONY POSSIBLE?—SURE!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THINGS are happening. In these seething times, when so much reckless assertion is being perpetrated, accuracy of statement is indispensable, lest the popular ferment explode in a Tower of Babel confusion. Guided by this knowledge, the following important facts are taken, not from rumor, or back-door gossip, but from fountain-heads, so to speak.

The first is culled from the columns of the Milwaukee, Wis., *Social Democratic Herald*. In its issue of the 3rd instant, that organ of the political body that calls itself “Socialist” party in some places, “Social Democratic” party in others, gives the following item of news on its fourth page, first column, under the head of gleanings from its own camp:

Chicago Socialists [i.e., so-called Socialist party, not the Socialist Labor Party,] met in convention last week and put up a city ticket for the spring election. After a heated debate the De Leonites [i.e., the members who are endeavoring to attune themselves to the spirit and the knowledge of the Socialist Labor Party] won out, 82 to 39, in the matter of a municipal platform, and as a result some old-time members resigned from the local party.

The second fact is culled from the columns of the Idaho Falls (Idaho) *Socialist*. In its issue of last December 31, that other organ of the same “Socialist,” alias “Social Democratic” party, publishes on its third page, first and second columns, the “Constitution of the Socialist party, for County organization.” In the said constitution the following clause is found:

Any member suggesting fusion, or urging endorsement of, or by any capitalist party or of or by any capitalist candidate for office, or that a Socialist ticket be not put up that some capitalistic party shall be aided thereby, shall stand expelled from the party without further action.

The second of these two facts—a regular “Thumb-screw” and “gag”—taken from the store of Socialist Labor Party “sectarian fanaticism,” for which the S.L.P. has been denounced as “inquisitorial,” “narrow,” “tyrannical” and “intolerant,” and as a protection and protest against all of which “unbearable evils” the said so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party was launched, is a dike, raised none too soon against corruption. It is an earnest that the danger of the Eichmanns of New Jersey, the Seth Tabors, the Nugents, the *Volkszeitungs* and *Workers* of New York, the innumerable of Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois and elsewhere is being realized in Idaho; it is an earnest that a serious attempt is making there to stem the devouring flood that anti-Socialist Labor Party “broadness” invites; it is an earnest of the approach of the day when the Idaho “Socialist” party organization, having cleansed its skirts of the vermin that elsewhere now infests its party, will refuse to sit in council with them, will be abreast of the S.L.P.,—and then?

The first of the two facts above cited is an evidence that there is a cleansing process going on in some other portions of the so-called Socialist party, a cleansing process that consists in shedding and secreting worthless material, and in rising up to S.L.P. clear-sightedness. It is an earnest of the approach of the day when, anti-S.L.P. cobwebs and illusions having been swept out of their head by such organizations, they will feel the incompatibility of their so-called Socialist party associations, will have clarified themselves up to the S.L.P.,—and then?

And then?—The answer is obvious. The columns of *The People*—a faithful mirror of the Socialist Labor Party—reflects accurately the Party’s career. Barely a month passes but the fact is mirrored of the secretion of unfit material. The deep, well-banked, steady-flowing stream of the Socialist Labor Party—towards which, tumbling down the mountainsides, the self-purifying rills of the “Socialist” party are converging—is itself daily being rendered fitter for its mission. Is it at all doubtful that these waters will mingle into one channel—the irresistible torrent of the S.L.P.?

Harmony? Most assuredly! That’s what the S.L.P. is there for, to secure harmony.

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