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ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

ON LEADING TOPICS OF THE DAY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

I.

Il Proletario,
Giornale Socialista,
19 Carmine Street.

New York, 18, 5, 1903

Mr. Daniel De Leon,
Editor *Daily People*.

Dear Comrades of the *Daily People*, New York City.

We hope you will consider the opportunity of taking a step towards the organization by the Socialists of all countries in New York of a general mass meeting in order to protest against the horrors of Kishineff. We find we ought to take this initiative, not only in order to assert our horror for religious hatred and wholesale butchery of a people, but also because the Russian Jews are persecuted especially on account of their large contributions to the revolutionary movement in Russia.

The editors of the *Daily People*, *Worker*, and *Il Proletario* could join to form the committee.

G.M. Serrati,
Editor of *Il Proletario*.

II.

Editorial Department.

Daily People.

New York, May 19, 1903.

Mr. M.G. Serrati, Editor, *Il Proletario*,

New York City.

Dear Sir and Comrade:—

I have yours of the 18th inst., in which you suggest that a step be taken for a general mass meeting to protest against the horrors of Kishineff, etc.; and that the editors of the

Daily People, *Worker*, and *Il Proletario* join to form the committee.

A year or more ago it would have been so difficult to explain the situation to you that I might not have undertaken it. The facts from which my conclusions flowed, not being then within your reach, as you were still young in this country of Fata Morganas, you could not have been expected to understand my conduct. It is not so now.

At this very time you are engaged in a hand-to-hand conflict in behalf of the Italian workingmen, on strike in the subway, against the labor fakirs. You have seen these labor fakirs seek to betray the workingmen by the old dodge of advising their “return to work pending arbitration.” You need not be told whose agents these labor fakirs are, and you have thus had forcibly brought to your attention what the mission of the labor fakir in America is.

During these performances of the labor fakirs, where have you seen the editor of the *Worker* stand? If he is a bona fide Socialist, was it and is it not his duty to ring the signal of alarm against these miscreant labor fakirs? to warn and enlighten the English dupes of these by emphatic exposures of these present acts of betrayals, and thus help to emancipate the workingmen whom they to-day sell out? Surely so. Was that the conduct of the editor of the *Worker*? It boots us little to be Socialists in one corner of our mouths, and forget all about it at the other corner. As Socialists, we know how material interests dictate policies. The material interests of the editor of the *Worker* order him to keep his mouth shut. The editor of the *Worker* is an employe of a private corporation,—the Volkszeitung corporation; and it is an established fact that the corporation cannot exist without the good will of these labor-betraying labor fakirs. This fact controls the action of all its employes, of whom the editor of the *Worker* is one, and consequently he has been silent on and has been salaaming to the iniquities of these very labor fakirs, whom you have been struggling against. There are the columns of the *Worker* to tell the disgraceful tale. How would you like to find yourself on the same public platform with the editor who tolerated the very fakirs that have been trying to sell out your unhappy countrymen in this strike? What a Godsend would not the Kishineff atrocities be to those labor fakirs and their principals {principles?}, together with such prostitute “Socialist” editors as the editor of the *Worker*, if those atrocities abroad could help to conceal at home the mission of the labor fakir by throwing into one pot both their supporters and their opponents! The confusion would be ideal for the whole pack

of miscreants. They could and can well afford to promote an abstract and distant good by accomplishing a concrete and nearby mischief,—the confusing of the public. Would you give them a helping hand? I am sure you would not, at least not intentionally.

Now, as to the Kishineff atrocities themselves. I invite you to take a ride on the Second Avenue Elevated Road from Houston street down to Division. Look out of the cars, to the right and to the left. You will come across not less than forty crowded sweatshops. In this heat, the windows are thrown up; you can look in with ease. Of what race are these “sweated” human beings?—Jewish. Of what race are the vampires who “sweat” and bleed them?—Jewish. These “sweated” Jewish workingmen, workingwomen and children are being physically, mentally and morally ruined. They are being killed in body and soul by the slow process of physical and mental starvation; and this is being done to them by Jewish contractors and the like. Can any raw-boned Cossack do worse? Alongside of these Jewish capitalistic “sweaters” of Jewish working people, the murderous Cossack is an angel. He acts only under sudden impulses, and at certain periods; these Jewish capitalistic vampires, however, together with those higher in authority than they, act deliberately, calculatingly, persistently, continuously. For every one Jew murdered in Russia by race and religious rage, hundreds are slaughtered right here, under the very shadow of our City Hall, by capitalist Jews. The condition of the Jewish working people here is that of a perpetual Kishineff, only more heinous, because more covered and insidious; only more atrocious, because carried on on a much larger scale.

Now, then, these identical Jewish capitalistic vampires are leaders in the protests against Kishineff. Of course. Well can they afford, in fact it pays them, to raise the dust of protest against the distant Kishineff, and under that very dust conceal the nearby Kishineffs that they are perpetually perpetrating, and that they mean to persevere in. The voice that would be raised by Socialists against the RUSSIAN Kishineff atrocities only,—and none other is contemplated in your proposal—could only go to swell the volume of noise raised by these capitalistic Jewish vampires. Our work is to unmask these criminals at home and expose Kishineffism everywhere. Would you help them to keep the mask on, and thereby keep the eyes of their Jewish working people dupes shut? I don't think you would, at least not intentionally.

For these reasons I am constrained to decline both the purpose and the method of

your proposition.

I am ready to join in any demonstration, even in behalf of an abstract good and against an abstract wrong, however distant the latter, Russian Kishineff atrocities included, provided the demonstration is so conducted as to be of concrete, express, unquestioned and unquestionable and near-at-hand application, and all the switches are locked tight against derailments into vaporous and, therefore, mischievous, because confusing, sentimentalism.

Your fraternally,
DANIEL DE LEON,
Editor *Daily People*.

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