

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 169.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1904.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

CHICKENS COMING HOME TO ROOST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

READERS of *The People*, familiar both with the reports of the Socialist Labor Party's delegate to the recent Amsterdam Congress and with his report to the Australian Socialist Labor Party, whose credentials he also bore, will remember the manoeuvres resorted to at the Congress in the matter of Australia. They will remember that the Australian S.L.P. credentials were "held up" on the ground that "Australia was part of the British Empire", which "already had a delegation"; they will remember how immediately thereupon Australia did appear on the floor of the Congress with a separate delegation; they will remember that the "clever" manoeuvre was the peanut politician work of Mr. Hyndman; they will remember that that Australian delegation consisted of a lone man, Mr. Claude Thompson, and that he had up to that time sat with the British delegation of Keir Hardie, Shakleton and Hyndman; they will remember, finally, how, as every nationality has two votes, the two Australian votes thus fabricated brought the revisionist Adler-Vandervelde Resolution within an ace of triumphing, the resolution being defeated only by a tie. With all this on their minds, readers of *The People* will appreciate the following communication from Melbourne, Australia, in the London *Justice* of the 3rd instant:

"Dear Comrade,—In perusing the reports of the Amsterdam Congress it will, no doubt, be noticed that Australia is responsible for two out of the five votes given against the Dresden resolution, thus making it appear that the Social Democrats of Australia are opposed to a policy based on the class war, and instead favored the adoption of revisionist tactics. In protest against the action of the delegate from Australia casting the votes enjoyed by Australia through being classified as a nation against that resolution, I have been directed to forward you for publication the following resolution which was carried unanimously by the comrades of the above party in vindication of Australian Social Democracy:

“That this party emphatically declares itself in favor of the Dresden resolution as adopted at the recent Socialist Congress held in Amsterdam, and that in no way can it uphold the action of the delegate from Australia who did not officially represent this party, in casting the votes of Australia against that resolution.’

“The above resolution will explain our position, at least, in respect to the class war and revisionism. The majority of the comrades were unaware, until *Justice* arrived, that Australia was represented by a delegate. No communication in respect to the appointing of one had been received, so that comrades need have no fear for Social Democracy in Australia. Though still very weak, it is present, and will hold firmly to the principles upon which its success and marvellous growth in Europe have been based until it has succeeded in emancipating the Australian worker from the chains of wage-slavery.—With fraternal greetings to all comrades, on behalf of S.D.P., I remain, yours truly,

“P. Halfpenny,
“General Secretary, Social Democratic Party of Victoria,
“177 Russel street, Melbourne, October 19, 1904.”

That chicken has quickly come home to roost.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded September 2007

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