

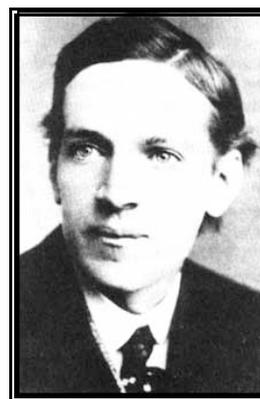
EDITORIAL

THE UPTON SINCLAIR SCANDAL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Jewish population of the East Side has been thrown into a turmoil on the ground of certain revelations that have come to light concerning the just started Upton Sinclair Socialist Colony of Helicon Hall in Englewood, N.J.

This being the 20th century A.C. and not the 20th century B.C., everybody who knows anything knows that when one hears “Socialist Colony” one must be ready for “revelations.” They are sure to come, sooner or later, and rather sooner than later. “Socialist Colonies,” in this year of grace, are schemes of dupers, who play upon the sentiment of the easily duped. Of course, a dupee does not necessarily mean a natural born and incurable idiot. There are such, but they are the exception. Not being idiots, dupees awake eventually to the fact that they have been buncoed—and your “revelation” follows immediately. This fact, together with several of the details in this particular case—the taking of \$10 fees and proposing to keep them without giving any returns therefor; the appointing of committees that are ignored, and the operating with unknown and virtually secret committees; the forming of an inner circle of initiated, and an outer circle of victims; the leading of these to expect the purchase of one site, and then suddenly purchasing an entirely different one; etc.; etc.;—all this, we repeat, is so utterly humdrum and stale in the business of starting “Socialist Colonies,” that the present explosion would hardly deserve more than a cursory paragraph. There is, however, one detail and one circumstance that entitle this particular “revelation” to special treatment. The detail is that the “revelations” bring out the fact that the Upton Sinclair “Socialist Colony” is run on the principle of “No Jew Need Apply”; and the circumstance is the



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naive wonder and indignation of the Jewish population at such an outrage against common sense, such an insult to Socialism.

Anti-Semitism is an evidence of a diseased, because corrupt, mind. The disease and the corruption lie in the hatred entertained by one race for another. Anti-Semitism is not the only manifestation of that specific mental disease and corruption. The mental disease manifests itself also as Anti-Irish by some diseased and corrupt German, American and English minds; it manifests itself at other times as Anti-German with some diseased Irish and American minds; it manifests as Anti-Japanese, as Anti-Negro, etc., etc. Wherever any one of these manifestations is found, the manifestation is the unerring sign of a diseased and corrupt mind. It follows that, whatever mind the manifestation manifests itself in against any one race, that mind will be found to be soil for the manifestation against any other race. This scientific principle seems to be overlooked by the Jewish population, now enraged at the Sinclair Colony. Naively they are indignant, notwithstanding they should have expected nothing else, and should have been prepared for the affront, seeing that the proofs of the principle have been actually showering down upon them, and are still showering from the very quarter, or element—the pure and simple political Socialist party—which, logically enough, furnishes the latest manifestations.

Barely two years ago, Hermann Schlueter, Algernon Lee and Morris Hillquit, all three militants in the S.P., put their signatures, as representatives of the S.P. at the Amsterdam Congress, to a resolution branding certain branches of the human family as “backward races.” The Congress hooted down and out the infamous proposition, but neither the local S.P. of New York, nor the national organization condemned the manifestation of disease and corruption in the minds that could so demean themselves, while Wm. E. Trautmann, who as a then officer of the S.P. raised his voice against the iniquity, was ever since overwhelmed with the condemnation of his party press, until this month he was finally, and to his honor, expelled.—Anti-“backward racism.”

A year before that, in 1903, the *Volkszeitung*, an S.P. organ, published under approving headlines the sentiment: “As to the Irish they are corrupt to the marrow.”—Anti-Irish.

More recently, Sherman, the deposed President of the I.W.W., and Kirkpatrick the deposed President of the Metal and Machinery Workers, both S.P. men, and the latter even a puller-in for the S.P., rallied around the craft Unionist McCabe, and, in chorus with him, hurled the imprecation of “damned Dutchman” at the Industrialist delegates, alluding to Trautmann’s race.—Anti-German.

And to come down to recentest date, and the most striking illustration, in the *Miners’ Magazine* of the 8th instant, John M. O’Neill—another rambunctious S.P.-ite, and at this very time the idol of *The Worker*, the *Volkszeitung*, and the S.P. Jewish *Vorwaerts*—proceeding from the theory that De Leon, as well as Gompers, is a Jew, seeks to explain with the following racial slur the circumstance that Gompers, as well as De Leon, happened recently to stop at the same hotel in Chicago. O’Neill says: “Daniel and Gompers being guests at the same hotel, while the I.W.W. convention was held at Chicago, is a peculiar coincidence that can only be explained by that CUNNING HEBREW INGENUITY THAT IS A CHARACTERISTIC TRAIT OF THE ISRAELITE RACE.”—Anti-Semitism.

And there is still more. The revelation concerning anti-Semitism in the Sinclair colony was offered more than three weeks ago to the *Volkszeitung*—it was refused; it was offered to *The Worker*—it was refused; and, take note!, it was offered to the *Vorwaerts*, the JEWISH S.P. paper—IT WAS REFUSED THERE ALSO. The reason given by each for its refusal was that SUCH A REVELATION WOULD INJURE THE HILLQUIT CAMPAIGN. The wrong that is hushed is a wrong that is not violently objected to.—This completes the circle: anti-“backward races,” anti-Irish, anti-German, anti-Semitism,—and hush.

The principle is proved. Whatever mind the manifestation of race hatred manifests itself in against any one race, that mind will be found to be soil for the manifestation against any other race. The so-called Socialist party, being a pure and simple political affair, is a scheme of and is run by a set of folks who are seeking notoriety and to feather their own nests at the expense of the Working Class. Such a scheme can be bred in diseased minds only; the disease that breeds so foul a scheme can not choose but also breed race hatred, and prejudices. Lofty thought offers no standing room for such sentiments.

It is the merest naiveté on the part of the Jewish population to be surprised at,

they should have expected nothing else than anti-Semitism from the pure and simple political Socialist party militant, Utopian Sinclair.

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

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