

The People.

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SECOND EDITORIAL

CONFIRMED WITHIN TEN MONTHS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

It was in the issue of only last April 2 that the article entitled “Sign Posts,” appeared in THE PEOPLE. The writing and the publication of the article were deliberate steps, taken after mature consideration. It had become absolutely necessary to convey to the Comrades and the friends of the Socialist Labor Party throughout the land full and authentic information upon the nest of foul corruption and revolting reaction that a hitherto trusted Party organization—the Volkszeitung Publishing Association—had degenerated into. The article told of the corrupt and reactionary speeches made at the Association against the Party during a long series of sessions, at which the reactionists and corruptionists in the Association united to uphold the hand of an untrustworthy editor, culminating, on the evening of March 23, with speaking him free of blame. The passage of the article closed with these words:

Well and wittily did a comrade strike off the situation on that evening of March 23. The yearly election for the Editor of the *Volkszeitung* coming up in the order of business after the above votes, the comrade nominated JUSTUS SCHWAB as the most appropriate man for the office, under the circumstances.

We imagine we can hear at this stage the cry of surprise: “What, Justus Schwab; that lager-bier Anarchist; that notorious enemy of the party; that clown of the Labor Movement; is HE, too, a member of the Volkszeitung Publishing Association?” Yes, and not only he, but a number of others of more or less equal kidney.

Unmasked by that full exposure, a howl went up from the midst of the corrupt cabal: the truthfulness of the article was denied; and the new Board of *Volkszeitung* Directors, a set of reprobates, fitly representative of their constituency, published, and, stealing THE PEOPLE’S mailing list, issued to THE PEOPLE’S readers a “denial,” the “strong point” of which was that the facts alleged in the “Sign Posts” article “did

injustice, by misrepresenting the Publishing Association.” Within ten short months the “Sign Posts” article receives a striking confirmation.

Readers of THE PEOPLE are aware that Section New York, as the largest stockholder, instituted proceedings before the Attorney-General to dissolve the Volkszeitung Association on several valid grounds, one of these being that the *Volkszeitung's* conduct of hostility to the Party was alienating from the paper the support of the Party, thereby running the *Volkszeitung* into bankruptcy. The Association denied these allegations by “affidavits”—whose affidavits? The Business Manager's, the best if not only qualified man in such a case, or perhaps some other employee? No! The leading affiant, the only affiant against the Party's allegations on these two heads of unfaithfulness to the Party and of resultant declining circulation is—well, who?—why, JUSTUS SCHWAB, the aforementioned Lager-Bier Saloon Keeper Anarchist, and, of course, foe of the Party. That passage from his “affidavit” deserves to be immortalized. He swears:

It is absolutely and unqualifiedly false and untrue that the Socialist Co-operative Publishing Association is acting contrary to the tactics of the Socialist Labor Party or has lost the support of the members and voters of the Socialist Labor Party, but that the true intent of this application is simply that the said Eber Forbes belonging to a party of men who has {have?} severed their connection with the branch of the Socialist Labor Party supporting the Socialist Co-operative Publishing Association, and who arrogate to themselves the right to proclaim themselves the Socialist Labor Party, whereas they are a mere small fraction of men formerly belonging to that party.

Apart from the significance of the *Volkszeitung's* having to fall back upon Justus Schwab for a certificate of good S.L.P. character; apart from the still greater significance of all the *Volkszeitung* employees having to be left aside, and a Justus Schwab, an outsider and keeper of a saloon, having to be picked out to deny by oath the obvious truth that the circulation of the *Volkszeitung* is declining;—apart from all this, there rises the mountain-high significance of the recklessness with which the Justus Schwabs utter statements, and even take oaths;—despite the quadruple judicial decisions (each demanded by the *Volkszeitung* itself), establishing the ample fact that the S.L.P., and not the *Volkszeitung* clique, is entitled to the Party's name, “affiant” Schwab swears that the men of the S.L.P. “arrogate to themselves the right to proclaim themselves the Socialist Labor Party”; despite the fact that the S.L.P. vote in the Nation and the State went up at the last election, and that even in

Greater New York the S.L.P. vote of last year was 14,463, barely 900 less than the year before, and this in the very teeth of urgent calls by the *Volkszeitung* upon “all honest workers not to vote” and to “smash the S.L.P.,” despite these irrefutable facts of record, “affiant” Schwab swears that the men of the S.L.P. “are a mere faction of men formerly belonging to that Party.”!!!

Mental cleanliness and moral cleanliness, these are qualities inseparable from the bona fide self-respecting revolutionary movement of labor. Mental and moral lepers can only gangrene such a movement.

The “affidavit” of Justus Schwab is but one of the features of the “*Volkszeitung* Party.” Some more such features will be exposed next week. To know them is invaluable. They are proof of the nature of the needed cleaning that the S.L.P. has undergone in expunging such folks from its ranks; and they will serve as “Sign Posts” for the further guidance of the militant proletarians.

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