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EDITORIAL

THE ULCER UNCOVERED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

READERS of *The People* will remember that, since the convention of the I.W.W., frequent and pointed allusions were made in these columns to a plot that had been gone into by pure and simple political Socialist party men and officials to knock the bottom out of the I.W.W. in favor of the A.F. of L., or of craft Unionism, that the plot was to be carried out at the convention, and that the historic significance of that memorable gathering lay in that the plot was dashed against the revolutionary rock that blocked its way, and in the circumstance that the ripeness of the times made such a happy issue possible. These allusions were made as late as last week in the Open Letter to Chas. H. Moyer, and in the flashlight on Sherman the detailed facts were promised. As the organ of a self-respecting body of men, who serve a great Cause, *The People* never states a fact that it can not prove, never makes a promise that it can not keep. The promise is kept, the fact is now proven. On the first page of this issue, under the headline "X-Ray and Flashlight Combined" an affidavit is reproduced from the papers against Sherman in the case now pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Ill. It is a historic document.¹

The ulcer is uncovered.

The most casual observer must have been struck by certain manifestations since the I.W.W. convention.

One of these manifestations was the thick clouds of dust which the upholders of Sherman threw up—the Bergers and the O'Neills, the Kirwans and the *Volkszeitung* publications, the Shermans and the Simonses. Men who aim at correct judgment, seek to clarify the atmosphere; only men who have nothing good, but only

¹ [To be appended at a later date.—R.B.]

evil to conceal, seek to darken council. The Shermanites have done nothing but darken council by filling the air with falsehoods and personal vituperations. What is it that they sought to conceal? To measure the ulcer thus sought to be hidden by the thick clouds of dust raised for the purpose, the ulcer must have been passing putrid. So it is. Lillian Forberg uncovers it, them.

The cry of “The Constitution!” was a cry raised by individuals who had directly and expressly conspired to overthrow the I.W.W. constitution. That constitution provided for an INDUSTRIAL as against a CRAFT Union system; the conspirators plotted to turn the constitution from the INDUSTRIAL back into CRAFTISM, in other words, into a body differing not from the Gompers body, and which could thus easily merge with it—with Sherman, perhaps, as the President, and the throwing of Gompers overboard as the fee for the treasonable act.

The cry “The S.L.P. tries to run the I.W.W.!” was a cry raised by S.P. men who themselves directly and expressly conspired to degrade the I.W.W. from its mission and lofty position. The I.W.W. was planted upon the Marxian principle that only the class-conscious Union can reflect the true political party of Labor. Thoroughly imbued with this principle, the idea of “running” the I.W.W. was the last possible to cross the S.L.P. mind. Its efforts could be and were and are directed only towards contributing to render the I.W.W. as powerful as possible in order that as soon as possible that true political party of Labor should spring up and pioneer the emancipation of the Working Class. Imbued with exactly the opposite idea, the Bergers, foes of the I.W.W. from its start, sought to lower the I.W.W. and adjust it to the political standard of their pure and simple political party. THEY sought to “run” it—to its destruction, and it was that identical S.P. bunch of the Shermans, O’Neills and Kirwans who plotted with Berger, of all men, and it was the Milwaukee Berger, who traveled all the way to Denver, to superintend the plot in his party’s name!

The ulcer is uncovered.

It now is clear whence the confident S.P. predictions that the convention would bounce “the revolutionists”; clear also it is now what that “bouncing” meant.

It now is clear whence the cordial and intimate relations between Sherman and the *Volkszeitung*, so intimate as to have Sherman pick out the egregious nincompoop of a New York *Volkszeitunger* Hannemann for his General Recording

Secretary-Treasurer.

It now is clear what it was that the S.P. national Secretary Barnes expected to see “drop,” and prowled around the convention in the expectancy of seeing, and clear also is the reason why his jaws dropped when what “dropped” was his allies within the convention.

Nothing happens by accident. It is no accident that the S.P. man, chosen to bring the heads of the conspirators together, was, not some S.P. man who, with whatever evil design it might have been, had joined the I.W.W., but that it was Berger, a habitual delegate at Gompers’s A.F. of L. conventions, one who systematically and openly fought the I.W.W. And, as if to illumine the essence of the plot, as if to let the X-Rays deep into what lies at bottom of pure and simple political Socialism, the S.P. man who crystallized the plot was the same Berger who, of all anti-I.W.W. S.P.’s, so well typified the political nature of his party that he alone of them all recommended during this year’s spring election in his city of Milwaukee that “judgment be suspended” (!!!!!) upon the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone affair. At that early date, when it was important that the Gooding-McDonald murderous conspiracy be speedily and loudly exposed, HE was willing to sacrifice these lives to ballots! It was the hand of this man, who, as far as his intentions were concerned, was practically bespattered with drops of blood, that Haywood’s substitute Kirwan grasped, and that O’Neill, the Editor of the organ of the organization of the imprisoned men, shook gladly.

The ulcer is fully uncovered—its turpitude along with its stupidity, both of which are underscored by the emphatic manner in which the convention dashed them.

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