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EDITORIAL

HYNDMAN ON ENGLAND.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE *Maoriland Worker* (Australia) of last August 25 has the following short, pithy and interesting letter touching Great Britain from the distinguished British Social Democratic leader, H.M. Hyndman:

“9 Queen Anne’s Gate,
“London, S.W., June 21.

“Dear Comrade—Yours of May 5th finds me on the Sussex Hills. *The Maoriland Worker* has not been forwarded. I shall see it when I return to London, and shall read it with pleasure.

“No, the Social Revolution is not near. The one country which is ready for it—Great Britain—has a population kept in ignorance deliberately by the dominant class in order to maintain its own power. The economic forces are prepared; the intelligence is lacking to make use of them. Both are needed to obtain Socialism through the Social Revolution. At present we are cursed with a gang of self-seeking and intriguing Laborites, whose sole idea is to make position and money for themselves by trading on the work we Revolutionary Socialists have done. There is no trickery too dirty, no misrepresentation too mean for these ‘statesmen’ to resort to in order to gain their ends.

“I am sorry I cannot possibly write you an article; my hands are too full already.

“Good luck to all revolutionary comrades.

“Yours fraternally,

“H.M. Hyndman.”

While we must disclaim possession of information concerning Great Britain, sufficient to justify the conclusion that Hyndman’s strictures upon the “Laborites” are warranted, at any rate to the extent that the strictures are made, this much may we safely say—

Hyndman is not wholly free from blame for the state of things that he deplors.

When an element here, in the United States, whom Hyndman’s present stric-

tures upon his own British “Laborites” strictly fit, started on their career, it was Hyndman, his Social Democratic Federation, and its organ, *Justice*, who, in England, received that element with open arms, echoed that element’s slanders against the Socialist Labor Party and the Party officers, and thereby promoted to the extent that he and his organization could, the manoeuvres in this country, of men with whom, to use Hyndman’s own language, “no trickery was too dirty, no misrepresentation too mean,” in order to carry out their idea “to make position and money for themselves by trading on the work we Revolutionary Socialists have done” in America. It must not be forgotten that the first fire opened upon the Socialist Labor Party, by the element just described, was opened through the columns of *Justice*, by Wilshire. It stands to reason that, when a bona fide Socialist Organization, as Hyndman’s, gives shelter and asylum, aid and comfort to such elements in a foreign country, it invites upon its own country the “curse” that Hyndman’s letter attests is palsying the otherwise economic ripeness of Great Britain for the doing of great deeds.

It is with no feeling of vindictiveness that these reminiscences are recalled. It is with a sense of sorrow only—sorrow for Great Britain. Whatever the difficulties of the situation in America, not the hopelessness that breathes through the lines of Hyndman’s letter, but the hopefulness, born of conscious ascendancy, pulsates through the arteries of the Socialist Labor Party. In the breast of the happy—happy because of successful work—vindictiveness has no standing room.

May our British fellow Socialists of Hyndman’s organization speedily strike the path that will lead them out of the wilderness in which they evidently are feeling lost.

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