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EDITORIAL

REIMER'S GREAT POINT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMONG the many great points scored by Arthur Elmer Reimer, the late presidential standard-bearer of the Socialist Labor Party, in his tour during the campaign, was the point that the S.L.P. has won signal victories, victories for the proletariat, victories that are vastly more important than the alleged victories which the Socialist party claims for itself.

Reimer substantiated the point with illustrations.

Foremost among his illustrations was the posture now struck upon the subject of Unionism by people who ten years ago held language exactly the opposite. Since the S.L.P. first unfurled its banner, it promulgated the Union principle to the effect that the heart of the Socialist Movement was the economic movement, Unionism; that the Union was not a temporary formation, but, class-consciously organized, organized true to its historic mission, the Union was the embryo of future society, and, as such necessary to deal the revolutionary blow, enact the Revolution. True enough, even to-day, the pure and simple political Socialist—unable to keep two ideas jointly in his head—ridicules the S.L.P. Union theory; true enough, even to-day, the pure and simple Unionist of the A.F. of L. and of the Anarchist stamp,—likewise unable to keep together and form the synthesis of the necessary economic and the equally necessary political movement—resists the teachings of the S.L.P. Nevertheless, in the camps of both, the S.L.P. position, now generally known under the name of Industrialism, is being preached with increasing vigor, and the arguments, wherever sound, are one and all borrowed from the S.L.P. literature.—That battle was fought to victory, a victory that is bound to mature.

Another illustration made by Reimer was the posture of the S.L.P. with regard to the principle of reform, distinguishing reforms that made for the Socialist Repub-

lic and reforms that, carried the mask of palliatives, but were in fact buttresses to capitalism.

Time was when Reform was synonymous with Socialism in the land, and Socialism with Reform. That time is no more. Despite the still wide prevalence of false notions upon the subject, the correct principle has "gained its footing." De facto in full retreat is the theory that reduced taxation will benefit the proletariat; or the theory that factory legislation is aught else than narcotics with jobs attached; or the theory that alliances with bourgeois movements strengthen the proletariat, instead of debauching them; or the theory that "you can catch more flies with molasses than with vinegar," as though flies could be the carriers of a Social Revolution;—these and the brood kindred notions are now de facto in full retreat. The apologetic note, plainly distinguishable in the arguments of those who still adhere to the notions, is as plainly the dust that is raised by feet in retreat. The force that won those victories for the proletariat is the force of the S.L.P., the only one whose distinct and uniform clarion blasts blasted the damnable illusions.

Reimer's great point is a torch by which to read the swelling figures now officially coming in, and published from day to day in these columns, of the S.L.P. presidential poll in the land.

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