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EDITORIAL

A JOKE ANENT THE BALKANS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE New York Sunday *Sun* has an article on Bulgaria woven in with Socialism. Listen to this:

“Bulgaria, as a country, is the ideal home for Socialism, for it is a country of peasants, where there are no rich and very few poor. Nearly all are tillers of the land, which belongs nominally to the Czar, but the land-holder possesses a perpetual lease which descends to his heirs. These land holders occupy from one to six acres, so the country is divided into many small farms, from each of which the peasant is able to make a living and yet not grow rich.”

So then, the “ideal home for Socialism,” for that social order that is first and clearest outlined by the industries,—the ideal home for that social order is a country where industries are little known, at any rate, are in primitive condition, and a peasantry pervades!

So then, the “ideal home for Socialism,” for that social order where production, industrial and agricultural, being carried on with the aid of the highly developed tool and upon large scales, yields to man an abundance of wealth, the abundance that civilized life requires,—the ideal home for that social order is a country where richness is not known!

So then, the “ideal home for Socialism,” for that social order where private ownership in the things required for production has no place,—the ideal home for that social order is a country in which the land, the only thing a petty peasantry needs, belongs to a Czar!

So then, the “ideal home for Socialism,” for that social order in which co-operative labor is the distinctive feature,—the ideal home for that social order is a country of small peasants, individually working on small parcels of land.

So then, the “ideal home for Socialism,” for that social order where to a co-operatively working society belongs the full fruit of its efforts,—the ideal home for that social order is a population of tributary serfs to a feudal overlord!

If the writer of the *Sun*'s article knows no more about Bulgaria than he knows about Socialism, then the Bulgarian will not recognize himself in the description given of him by the *Sun*.

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