

EDITORIAL

## SCORE ONE MORE FOR “PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A.** M. Simons, “Editor,” and Fred D. Warren are out with “Statements.” The “Statements” can not be said to be mutually complimentary. Warren gives a string of figures that look like the tables recently issued on the coffee market imbroglio. If Warren’s figures are true, then A.M. Simons, “Editor,” the Editor of the now defunct *Coming Nation*, has scored his fourth lamentable failure as an “Editor,” and the *Coming Nation*, A.M.S.’s fourth victim; simply died of A.-M.-Simonsitis.

Simons on his part, is not short of figures, either. His figures partake of the physiognomy of A.F. of L. Sick-and-Death Benefit reports. If Simons’s figures are true, then he is more than right in saying that Warren “strangled” Simons’s paper because it was a “competitor of the *Appeal*,” and in pursuit of “a carefully planned plot” to deal “a terrible blow” in betrayal of Socialism, which, of course, means Simons’s editorialism.

All this may be interesting, in its way; but not interesting enough for more than a passing smile. The real interest in the matter lies in the truths that leak through the Statements, individually, and collectively in their clash.

The Warrens and the Simonses have been front-rank Antis in the matter of Party ownership of the Socialist press. In Party-ownership they saw—pretended to see—the Socialist Anti-Christ. Party-ownership bred “bossism,” “head-hunting,” “disturbance.” Private-ownership bred the opposite—democracy, freedom, peace.

It now appears from the Statements of these two paladins of private-ownership that each and every one of the charges brought by the Socialist Labor Party against the Holy of Holies of private-ownership is made good by the Simons-Warren squab-

ble; and each and every one of the charges of these gents against party-ownership is shown to apply to private-ownership.

Through private-ownership Socialism is admitted to be exploited; Socialists are admitted to be cheated of their moneys; the private owners are accused—one of them of wasting the funds, the other of pocketing them; plots are revealed; schemes are exposed;—in short, Socialism is shown to be made a cloak for stock exchange chicaneries, and the peace of the Arcadian Socialist party is shaken as if with the ague by a positively revolting boss-ship, and ruthless head-hunting.

Its press must be owned by a bona fide party of Socialism, or the party will become a breeding place for schemers who will practice all the crimes of bourgeois intellectuality to "get there." Party-ownership, like Freedom, has its burdens, but they are sweet to bear; private ownership has no burdens, it is so lightfooted that it fat-edly becomes lightfingered.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)