

EDITORIAL

## THE SULZER TRIAL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**HEN bourgeois official professors want to make a “short cut” across the lot of deception, a favorite recourse is tables of statistics. It would require hours, if not days, to verify and grasp the array of figures; yet are the figures presented with the knowledge that the gullible and superficial reader will be taken in. Can figures lie? Does not a table of wages that foot up into the billions prove that wages are billion-high? Thus the statistical trick consists in implying what the items allege, and the total of the allegations being arithmetically correct, that which is implied is accepted as also arithmetically undeniable.

Another favorite resource, belonging to the same kith and kin, is that of “facsimiles.” The facsimile of, say, a check, is produced in a paper. The facsimile is correct enough: it is no forgery: yet its undeniable genuineness is used to verify a claim or charge that the facsimile does not utter. Again a partial truth is uttered and made to cover and imply what is untrue.

The Tammany Legislature that has been prosecuting Gov. Sulzer did not resort to the statistical, it resorted to the facsimile trick, and worked the same for all it was worth in the press. The gullible were taken in.

The first event of the impeachment trial, the instant the trial began, was the break-down of the facsimile trick regarding two of the checks that have been figuring most conspicuously since the earliest days of the proceedings against the Governor. The testimony of Morgenthau and Schiff, the drawers of the two checks, strips the facsimiles of their significance. The checks were drawn to Sulzer, but were given to him to use as he pleased: they were not the campaign contributions which the facsimiles were intended to prove. And thus two “documents” go by the board.

Again we say:

If Sulzer is guilty as charged, or not guilty, is a matter of secondary consideration with the Socialist. What is of primary importance is to draw from the event of his impeachment all the lessons with which it bristles. One of these lessons is to reason correctly: not to accept as evidence what, at best, is but a half truth: above all, not to yield to hue-and-cry. He who disregards these lessons is the mental thrall of designing men.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded February 2016

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)