

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 9, NO. 128.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1908.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## THE CAMPAIGN IN THE NINTH.

By DANIEL DE LEON

### HILLQUIT'S VOTE:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| In 1906 ..... | 3,586 votes. |
| In 1908 ..... | 2,586 votes. |

**T**HE above figures are big with texts for sermons not a few upon both principle and tactics, or practice, in the Socialist Movement.

Abreast of Mr. Robert Hunter, Mr. Morris Hillquit stands in the Socialist party as an anti-immigrationist. It is so respectable, you know, to turn up your nose at the "degraded hordes of Europe," and then also, though such "respectable" conduct smite Socialism, it curries favor with reactionary Unionism. In exchange for respectability and possible votes, Mr. Hillquit, accordingly, betrayed the cause of the working class and of Socialism by assuming an attitude that rips up the proletariat into as many warring factions as there are nationalities. Already two years ago, when he first stood for Congress in the Ninth, his anti-immigration capers at the Amsterdam International Congress made him suspicious. Nevertheless, he was supposed to have recovered his senses; the Amsterdam escapade was pardoned; the Socialist Labor Party put up no rival candidate; and Mr. Hillquit polled 3,586 votes.

Before the campaign of 1906 was over, the S.L.P., and not a few voters in the District, had occasion to make the experience that there are certain wrongs that may not be pardoned, at least not quite so soon. Mr. Hillquit's campaign in 1906 was conducted with scandalous tactics. Readers of *The People* have been made familiar{,} and pictorially so, with the scandalous log-rolling methods adopted by Mr. Hillquit's campaign managers, without protest on his part. Since the campaign of 1906 the S.L.P. and hundreds of voters in the District made the further experience that, to shut one's eyes to a wrong, is to encourage the wrong-doer. Since

the campaign of 1906 Mr. Hillquit not only did not make amends for his Amsterdam misconduct, he persisted and aggravated the wrong. At Stuttgart, and subsequently at the national convention of the S.P., Mr. Hillquit reappeared in his Amsterdam role; and, encouraged by the indulgence previously extended to him, he carried cynic effrontery to the point of reappearing as a candidate for Congress in the same Ninth District, a District that consists mainly of immigrants.

The insult of such an act caused the measure to overrun. The S.L.P. set up its opposing candidate and conducted so active a campaign that Mr. Hillquit was smoked out of his hole of concealment on immigration. His defense, being mainly a display of double-dealing and even worse, convicted him. The net result was that the anti-Socialist principle of “backward races” was knocked on the head for all time in the District; the Socialist principle was firmly planted.—The fact is seen in Mr. Hillquit’s collapsed vote.

\* \* \*

In the course of the campaign two fresh issues obtruded themselves upon the field. One of these was the issue of free speech.

Free speech is a conquest of civilization. Mr. Hillquit’s campaign assailed free speech. Eighteen years ago, when the S.L.P. first attempted to reach the public through open-air propaganda, the Party had virtually to fight its way to a hearing through the rowdies of the old parties who sought to prevent the Party’s being heard. This year the S.L.P. had the same task to perform. Rowdies from the Hillquit camp did all they could to interfere with the Party’s speech. They hurled stones at our speakers, and otherwise conducted themselves in the approved manner of their ilk whenever afraid of their adversaries’ speech. Not until many a rowdy’s nose was punched did the nuisance sufficiently subside to enable the S.L.P. speakers to hold their meetings and vindicate free speech.—Again the result is read in Mr. Hillquit’s collapsed vote.

\* \* \*

The third issue that arose and had to be grappled with dovetails with the two previous ones. Being more insidious than either, it could not be as completely check-mated in so short a time.

That issue was the manoeuvre of a Socialist alliance with capitalist papers.

Mr. Hillquit's campaign was conducted with the aid of the English capitalist press. Never yet was patent medicine advertised as he was, or its virtues praised as his chances of election were fictitiously boomed. The capitalist press, 'tis well known, does not do such things out of sweet charity. While such a spectacle as a capitalist paper's promoting the election of a Socialist candidate was appropriately used by the S.L.P. and had its effect upon the more alert and solid minds who could be reached, certain it is that the spectacle carried the more lightheaded off their feet, and thereby tended to counteract the profundity of the collapse of the Mr. Hillquit's vote. With this fact in mind the proper estimate may be placed upon the weight of the fragment of the vote left to Mr. Hillquit.

\* \* \*

Altogether the campaign in the Ninth is a brilliant victory obtained for Socialism.

The principle, "Proletarians of all countries, unite!" and that other principle, "There are but two races for the Socialist to consider—the race of the Capitalist Class and the race of the proletariat"—these principles now stand vindicated.

The principle of free speech stands vindicated.

The principle that Socialist alliances with the capitalist press are unerring symptoms of the betrayal of Socialism stands demonstrated.

Finally, the upholder of the opposite of these principles stands conspicuously punished—how thoroughly is read in Mr. Hillquit's shattered poll.

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

Uploaded April 2010

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