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EDITORIAL

THE PASSAIC COUNTY CAMPAIGN.

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THE number of Socialist Labor Party campaign clubs that are springing up in the Congress District of New Jersey, situated in Passaic County, denote a strong, healthy, correct instinct.

While everywhere else in the country, wherever the S.L.P. agitator has penetrated and set up the S.L.P. standard, the response evoked denotes increased perception of the needs of the hour, and of the duty of the working class, in the Congress District of Passaic County the response is most marked.

The reason is not far to seek.

In Passaic County jail lies incarcerated the leader of the recent I.W.W. silk weavers' strike, and now Congressional candidate of the Socialist Labor Party. Pithy as Rudolph Katz's words of propaganda are, and eloquent, pithier still and more eloquent is the silent propaganda that has been carried on by his imprisonment.

Arrested upon the order of labor-skinning employers, the proceeds of whose labor-skinning Katz's leadership of the strike had knocked a big hole into; tried under a statute that, pretending to guard against "disorderly conduct," enables a petty magistrate to transform the County Jail into a feudal Bastille; convicted, without a jury, upon a testimony that contradicted itself glaringly; summarily sentenced to a term of 6 months—a term the length of which betrays the pure and simple vindictiveness of the proceedings; well may the jail of Passaic County become the center for the most active of all political S.L.P. struggles in this campaign.

From that center radiates silent the trumpet warning to the proletarians of the land that the laws and their enforcers are agencies of the master class; that "equality before the law" is a snare and a delusion under the rule of capitalism; that the evil can be sooner ended than mended, and is past mending; that neither their

mending, let alone their ending can be entrusted to a class that thrives upon them; and that the job must be done by the slave class itself.

From the Passaic County Jail, with Rudolph Katz in a prison cell as the center, radiate the silent trumpet notes that call upon the proletariat to organize themselves for the conquest of the political power whereby to attain economic independence, and to organize themselves for the capture of the economic power whereby to end the class-rule reign of the political state.

Passaic County Jail, with Rudolph Katz within its walls, is an object lesson—with the Republican, Progressive, Democratic and Socialist parties of A.F. of L.-ism, charlatanism, pure and simple politicianism and get-rich-quickism as background—that illustrates old folly, and warns against its continuance.

No wonder that there, where the object lesson stands out most glaring, underscoring most emphatically the redemptional nature of the Socialist Labor Party and the I.W.W.,—no wonder that there the clubs are multiplying most numerously for an electoral struggle to seize the many-headed Apocalyptical Beast of Capital by the throat, and signalize the triumphant effort by the election of Rudolph Katz to Congress.

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