

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 7, NO. 43.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 1906.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

## YONDER AND HERE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** GERMAN Trades Union exchange, *Die Einigkeit*, of the 9th of last June, contains an address, delivered in Paris in February of this year by Dr. Michels, a passage of which, narrating a certain incident that happened recently in Germany, vividly recalls another incident that happened in this city fourteen years ago.

The passage narrating the incident in Germany is this:

“Although Germany is the land of many small parties, an inheritance of the system of small principalities, yet is the tendency unmistakable among these bourgeois parties to pull together. Their special features run into one another, preserving only the one striking feature of opposition to the revolutionary proletariat, or to the proletariat that they take for revolutionary. This feature appears with special distinctness at elections. It may be literally said that they are thoroughly ruled by the common enmity of all bourgeois parties towards the Labor party. Allow me to take two illustrations by an ample quarry furnished by the last elections for the Reichstag. We have in Germany also an anti-Semitic party called to life for the express purpose of fighting the Jews. Now, then, when the supplementary elections came on, the spectacle was seen of even Rabbis advising their faithful from the pulpit to cast their vote for the anti-Semitic against the Social Democratic candidate. At the same time, and inversely, the anti-Semites of Frankfort on the Main decided to plump their votes for a Jewish Liberal in order to keep out his Social Democratic opponent. Thus we see the anti-Semites drop their hostility to the Jews and the Jews their defensive opposition to the anti-Semites when the issue is to down the Social Democracy, as the representative of the Working Class.”

The New York incident occurred during the campaign of 1892. There were three candidates running for State Senator in the Yorkville district—Joseph Cantor, a Democrat, who just previously had uproariously applauded Gov. Flower for helping the railroad companies break the 10-hour law by pouring the militia of the whole

State into Buffalo upon the necks of the switchmen, on strike to uphold that law; Moe Cohen, Republican candidate, but Trades Unionist and member of Gompers's Cigar Makers' Union; and, third, Aaron Henry, the candidate of the Socialist Labor Party, also a Trades Unionist, and also a member of the said Gompers's Cigar Makers' Union. Now, then, at that election, Samuel Gompers, the President of the American Federation of Labor, and presumably the representative of workingmen in general, of Trades Unionists in particular, specifically picked out Cantor for endorsement by a letter addressed to Cantor and published over Gompers's official signature in the then Tammany paper the *Daily News*, saying: "If anyone states that you (Cantor) are an enemy of the working class he states what is not true."

Being shown one night to his room in a country hotel and finding there only a sputtering tallow candle lighted, Mark Twain turned to the waiter with the request to bring him another candle to see the first one by. The sputtering candle of Rabbis, in one place, recommending their faithful to vote for an anti-Semitic candidate, and of anti-Semites, in another place, deciding to vote for a Jewish candidate in order to defeat the Social Democratic candidate, lights up the sputtering candle of the craft Unionist Gompers, and now Vice-President of Belmont's Civic Federation, endorsing a pronounced foe of Working Class aspiration in order to defeat the Socialist Labor Party candidate and also the Republican candidate, both of whom were Trades Unionists; and vice versa, the sputtering candle of Gompers's action lights up the sputtering candle of the German bourgeois Rabbis and anti-Semites.

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

Uploaded April 2009

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