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EDITORIAL

THE HILLQUIT CAMPAIGN.

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THE campaign conducted this year by the Socialist party in the Ninth Congress District of this city was a blot on the good name of Socialism; it marked “the limit.”

It is not the romance of presenting as “the devoted friend of the workingman” a man, who, to go no further back in his labor record, only the other day plucked the workingman Jeremias of a \$25 fee out of the small sum that the poor fellow needed from the savings bank to bury his wife and support his little children, notwithstanding Hillquit was paid by Jeremias’ organization to act as its lawyer, and notwithstanding all the work done in the case was to get the money out of the bank;—it is not the farce of setting up such a man as the “trusted friend of the Unions,” notwithstanding Jeremias’ Cigarmakers’ Union, for one, immediately withdrew from the body that Hillquit is the lawyer of, and did so with scathing denunciations of the man’s labor-plucking practices;—it is not the grotesqueness of advertising as “a man of intrepidity” an individual whom other labor papers have justly compared to Falstaff in point of poltroonery;—it is not the buffoonery of recommending such a nonentity to the Russian Jewish voters as the man who, if elected to Congress, would bankrupt the Czar’s Government and insure the success of the Russian Revolution;—it is none of these absurdities that constitutes the actual disgrace of that campaign. There was worse.

People holding certain principles must, to a certain extent, be judged from their own premises. Untenable as is the position that there is a certain mystic power in the ballot to palsy the capitalist class, and rear the Socialist Republic, regardless of the Might to enforce such a ballot, there are people who sincerely hold the opinion. That there are individuals who merely exploit this notion to advertise themselves, and for other self-seeking purposes, does not affect the sincerity of others. Enough

others there are, sincere in the delusion. Nevertheless, even delusions reach a point where they gag. Even the most wildly raving ballot-maniac will draw the line, somewhere. Even such maniacs must admit that the mystic power above referred to cannot reside in any and all ballots, whomsoever they may come from. The ballot-maniac may have confidence in ballots gained even under false pretence. He may imagine that, regardless of the person elected, if the ballots cast for him are cast for a principle, that somehow is Socialistic, the mystic virtue will assert itself. Not the insanest, however, of ballot-maniacs will hold that any such mystic virtue could possibly reside in a ballot that is cast by one who believes in capitalism, who either would uphold capitalism as it is, or would like simply to reform it. THE HILLQUIT CAMPAIGN FISHED FOR CAPITALIST VOTES. A neatly printed paste-board circular, gotten up in the approved politicians' style, gives instructions "How to Elect Morris Hillquit to Congress." The instructions were as follows:

"If you want to vote for Hearst and Hillquit, make a cross in the circle of the Democratic party column, or the column of the Independence League, and also make a cross in the square in front of the name of Morris Hillquit.

"If you want to vote for Hughes and Hillquit, make a cross in the circle of the Republican party column, and also make a cross in the square in front of the name of Morris Hillquit."

That is not what Marx styles "parliamentary idiocy"—that is corruption—it is the limit. To deeper depths a campaign, conducted under the name of "Socialism," never sank. The circular bears the impress of "The Professional League," but it was peddled by Hillquit's campaign managers, and never was disowned by him.

All honor to the proletariat of the Ninth Congressional that the bulk of them left such a disreputable candidate to the "professionals" who recognized in him one of their own! Well for the Ninth Congressional workingmen who left such a defamer of the Cause of Socialism with so markedly small a vote that he has his disgrace only to wrap himself in.

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