

REPORT

## FRENCH SOCIALISTS

At National Congress Take Stand on S.L.P. Ground.

**Repudiate “Neutrality” on Economic Field—“Pure and Simple Unionism” and “Pure and Simple Political Action” Decisively Defeated—Progress Now Possible Towards Full Endorsement of I.W.W. Position.**

(Special Correspondence)

**N**ANCY, FRANCE, AUGUST 15.—The National Convention of the Socialist political, now united, organizations of France closed its labors to-day. The bulk of the delegates proceed to the International Congress in Stuttgart. Ball, Bohn, Reinstein and myself<sup>1</sup> took in part of the convention. Of deep interest, and I trust of eventual importance to the International movement, was the decision of the convention on the question of Unionism.

We arrived just in time to hear the closing speeches on the subject. There were two propositions before the convention—one from Dordogne, which was essentially “pure and simple political”: it saw in the Union merely a temporary palliative: it denied the revolutionary mission of Unionism to perform the revolutionary act: of course, it was blind to the fact that Unionism is the foreshadower of the organization of the Socialist Commonwealth: of course, it placed main, if not entire

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<sup>1</sup> [The names of the SLP and IWW delegates to the International Socialist Congress at Stuttgart were given in the following item, from the *Daily People* of Saturday, August 3, 1907:

### “Stuttgart Delegates Leave To-day.

“Frank Bohn and Daniel De Leon, elected delegates of the Socialist Labor Party to the Stuttgart International Socialist Congress, will sail this morning on the Red Star liner *Vaterland*. They will be accompanied, as additional delegates, by Dr. Julius Hammer, of New York, and Frederick Ball, of Paterson, N.J., and also by Fred Heslewood of British Columbia, the delegate of the Industrial Workers of the World.”

Boris Reinstein of Buffalo, New York, also attended the Congress, though from the preceding it would appear that he sailed separately.—*R.B.*]

reliance upon the political movement. The other proposition was from Cher: it came nearer, by a good deal, to the American I.W.W. position: the Sherman language that the ballot is but a “paper wad” is not the language of the Cher resolution; it is, indeed, repudiated by the resolution: the resolution places the French Movement on ground from which growth is possible in the direction of the I.W.W. Guesde, strange to say, supported the Dordogne resolution, Vaillant the Cher resolution.

The latter carried by a decisive majority. The identical issue will turn up in Stuttgart with the French delegation’s vote in support of the Cher plan, which, in its essence, is the repudiation of “Neutrality” on the economic field, and the recognition of the additional fact that the revolutionarily organized Union is essential to give the death-blow to capitalism.

It will be asked, What then is the difference between the Cher resolution and the I.W.W.? It is this: The Cher resolution is to the I.W.W. what the bud is to the flower in full bloom. The Cher resolution, while it by no means denies, yet does not yet perceive the fact that, not Unionism simply, but Unionism integrally industrially organized, is the physical force requisite to the Movement. Failing to see so far, the Cher resolution seems to lean towards the delusion that “armed force” is the physical force the Movement will need. I say “seems to lean”; it does not lean, in fact, if all the declarations, official and otherwise, of its leading supporters are interpreted together. The light of Industrialism will enlighten what is not yet clear.

In the meantime the French Movement stands upon the S.L.P. ground—it rejects the notion that the Social Revolution can be a “legal enactment” of and by politicians. The day can not be far when the French Movement will adopt the full S.L.P. motto: “Without the political movement victory can not be reached, without the integrally industrial organization of the Working Class the day of Socialist political victory will be the day of its defeat: ‘pure and simple political Socialism’ attracts and breeds the politician who will debauch and sell out the Movement, ‘pure and simple Unionism’ attracts and breeds the agent provocateur, the Orchards and McParlands, who would assassinate the Movement.”

DANIEL DE LEON.

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

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