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EDITORIAL

EDUCATION! EDUCATION!!

By DANIEL DE LEON

OFTEN have the readers of *The People* been furnished evidence of the sad lack of coherent information that prevails among our European comrades concerning the Movement in America. In its issue of this December 5th, the Budapest, Hungary, *Central Organ of the Iron and Metal Workers* furnishes the latest gem in an article entitled "The Hungarians in America." The article is intended to enlighten the workingmen of Hungary. The following passage in the article may convey some idea of the kind of information that is imparted: "At the Stuttgart International Socialist Congress we had an opportunity to hear the representatives of the two largest divisions present their views. The delegate of the Socialist Labor Party declared himself a disciple of Marx and took the same credit for his party, while the delegate of the Industrial Workers of the World endeavored to prove that they were shamelessly compromising with Capital and had more than once, over the heads of the workers, made common cause with the big capitalists. He showed a photograph of the functionaries of the labor organization sitting at Lucullan feasts with the money princes. On the [other] hand the delegate of the S.L.P. tried to prove that the organization which the delegate of the I.W.W. represented was anarchistic and not Socialist."

The fact is that Heslewood, the delegate of the I.W.W., spoke in refutation and confutation of Simons of the Socialist party. Delegate Simons had boosted the A.F. of L., holding language exactly the opposite to that which shortly before he held in the official organ of the I.W.W., and at Stuttgart he quite pointedly referred to the I.W.W. as anarchistic. It was the S.P., and not the S.L.P., that slandered the I.W.W., and it was to the S.P., not to the S.L.P., that Heslewood referred when he brought the proofs of dickers and deals with capitalists, and when he held up the picture of Gompers, the S.P. pet, banqueting with the capitalist nabobs. It is a

recorded fact that the amendment in favor of revolutionary unionism was signed by the delegates of the S.L.P. and the I.W.W. jointly. The Hungarian paper's information is muddled. Nor is that all. The article contains the advice that the Hungarians in America should "forbid political discussion" in their Unions, and yet it immediately proceeds to say: "Another qualification for membership should be that no member should be an adherent of a bourgeois political party,"—how the thing is to be done, abstain from political discussion and yet exclude adherents of bourgeois political parties, our Hungarian comrade wisely leaves unexplained.

It can be no purpose with *The People* simply to exhibit the negligence of our European comrades to furnish themselves with sound information. The purpose of the exhibition is to point out to the Hungarian comrades in America the necessity of educating their European would-be educators, to the end that when their Hungarian fellow workingmen leave their country, and land in America, they may not find this a country with the roots of the trees growing up in the air.

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

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