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EDITORIAL

AS TO ANTI-MILITARISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A NEW YORK correspondent desires to know the posture of the Socialist Labor Party on the question of Anti-Militarism now agitating Europe. He realizes the question has no place in America. He is anxious to know what stand the S.L.P. delegation will take on the matter at the International Congress in Stuttgart.

The S.L.P. is a Socialist organization. As such the S.L.P. is planted with both feet upon the materialist conception of the acts of man. An essential factor in the materialist understanding of man's acts is the grasping of the fact that, not until the material conditions are ripe, can the desired act be successful. The material conditions, requisite for the only act that can effectively hamstring militarism in Europe, to wit, the rebellion so tersely outlined by Herve in his speech before the jury, is the identical material conditions requisite for the only act that will overthrow the capitalist regime—the integral industrial organization of the Working Class. Before trains can run tracks must be laid. The first, the determining question to answer in face of Militarism is this: “Is the working class of a country, in which the militaristic manifestation of the capitalist regime has taken shape, integrally-industrially organized?” If it is, if that sufficient minority that ever has and will accomplish results is organized, then, some fortuitous circumstance proceeding, not from the camp of Labor, but from the camp of Sponge, will determine the time for, and the color of the act.

If that fortuitous circumstance be some outrage perpetrated by Sponge upon Labor, then the Labor-mass will, as quickly as naturally, crystallize around the robust nucleus of the industrial organization that has moved along the civilized path of the ballot, and the ballot becoming useless, will off-hand cast off capitalism—militarism, prostitution, woman labor, child labor, black and blue

police, together with the rest of the catalogue of capitalist crimes, together with capitalism itself.

If that fortuitous circumstance be a war, then, the same process will be gone through, only in inverse order. The overthrow of capitalism will result from the revolt that will lay militarism low.

Industrial Unionism is hardly known in Europe. The attitude of the Socialist Labor Party towards Anti-Militarism is—“Organize the working class integrally industrially!” Only then can the revolt against Militarism result in a Waterloo to the class of Sponge, instead of a massacre to the class of Labor.

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