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EDITORIAL

REMOVE HIM!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THIRTEEN days have passed by since the New York *Evening Post* published an interview with Mr. Joshua Wanhope, the gubernatorial candidate of the Socialist party in this State, in the course of which the gentleman used towards Preston, the Presidential candidate of the Socialist Labor Party, the contemptuous language that the capitalist class is applying to Preston, and ever applies to all proletarians who are true to their class in their class struggle with the exploiter—"the man Preston."

A man, especially if he considers himself a Socialist, is justified to feel above the necessity of taking notice of what the capitalist press says of him—ordinarily. Otherwise when he is reported in an interview, in quotation marks, at that. In such a case, a man, especially if he considers himself a Socialist, is bound to take notice.

Mr. Wanhope's party does not suffer for want of public conveyances of speech. It has a Yiddish daily, a German daily, and latterly an English daily also.

In not one of these has a denial—categorical as the dignity of Socialism demands—appeared in Mr. Wanhope's name of the accuracy of the words imputed to him.

Under such circumstances, silence does more than imply, it proves consent. Mr. Wanhope's silence is a loud declaration by him that he has been correctly reported.

Such a declaration calls for another—the equally loud repudiation of Mr. Wanhope by his party, indeed, his removal from its ticket.

Whatever the shade of Socialism of the modern Socialist, the interests he upholds are the class interests of the proletariat. He may be "broad enough" to take in the Countesses of Warwick, or the actual, or reputed, millionaires Wilshire, but he can do so only in a dictionary humanitarian sense. He may be intent mainly upon bringing about social conditions that may afford these social cripples, sad

products of capitalist society, opportunities to live clean lives. However close he may keep to such elements, and however intense his gaze may be upon them, he will not, he can not deny that his goal is attainable only in the measure that he hews close to the class interests of the working class.

The International Congress, limp though it still may be with regard to the full economic program, has, moreover, amply expressed itself upon the subject, for the present purpose. The economic organization of the proletariat is an essential arm of the Social Revolution.

“The man Preston” was doing his duty by his Union, in particular, by Unionism in general—he was on picket duty, on the post of danger. An assault with intent to kill is made upon him by the employer, and he shoots his assailant dead. For this act of righteous self-defense and defense of his class he is now in the Nevada penitentiary, sent thither by the criminal machinations of the Goldfield local of the capitalist class.

Upon this stalwart representative of the proletariat Mr. Wanhope points the finger of scorn; him he refers to in the scornful terms of the class whom Socialism combats—“the man Preston”; and, capping the ignominy of his deed, Mr. Wanhope mounts the tribune of a paper that has prescribed “the rifle diet” to workingmen on strike, and from that tribune he hurls his insult upon the victimized proletarian on the firing line.

For shame, remove the miscreant from a ticket that flies the Socialist colors!

For shame, “broad” though the Socialist party may be as against the “narrow” Socialist Labor Party, remove the traitor!

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

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