

EDITORIAL

HILLQUITERS ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT seems incredible, but the fact stands out glaring, black upon white.

The *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, a paper of which Mr. Morris Hillquit is a part owner, prints this editorial paragraph in its issue of Tuesday, the 13th instant, page 4, columns 2 and 3:

“At the expense of the ‘Professor’ there was the other day a good joke that we should not keep secret from our readers.

“As is well known, Mr. De Leon is busily at work in the Ninth Congressional District fighting our comrade, Morris Hillquit. His method is to peddle about the lie that the Socialist party is against immigration. At one of his meetings he announced to his audience, mostly Jews of Russian extraction, that, if Hillquit is elected, then they must give up all thought of bringing over from Russia their families, especially the wives, whom they left behind, and remain there.

“The argument had an effect contrary to what Mr. De Leon expected. ‘If that’s so, I shall vote for Hillquit!’ announced a man in the audience, and others chimed in with him. Such are conditions on the East Side reported to be, that many a one has cause to **fear** [the underscoring is in the original] has cause to **fear** that his better half, whom he left behind in Russia, should ever appear on the scene.”

It seems incredible—yet there it stands!

It is only of secondary, or even less, importance that the incident is a fabrication.

It is only of secondary importance that no such interruption, or announcement, ever happened, or could have happened, seeing that De Leon’s arguments give no occasion therefor—even if indeed “conditions” in the district were really so debased as that a perceptible number of men in the district were, indeed, wife-deserters.

It is only of secondary importance that the argument on the point, uttered with

emphatic deliberation by the candidate of the Socialist Labor Party—as a clincher to his documentary presentation of the anti-Socialist record of Mr. Hillquit and his party on immigration—is to the effect: “A German, an Irishman, a Scandinavian resident of this district, if he votes for a Hillquit, is responsible to himself alone; his act of self-stultification ends with him. Otherwise with the Russian, Polish and other Jews of Eastern Europe. A vote by any of these for a Hillquit is a vote that makes for shutting the gates of this country to the thousands of their kindred, who, harassed, hounded and persecuted at home, justly look to America as the only real haven of refuge.”

It is only of secondary importance that these arguments are received with spirited applause by the large audiences to whom they are addressed.

All this is of a minor importance, though it serves as a setting to the *Volkszeitung* story. The important feature in the matter is the bankruptcy, mental and moral, of the Socialist party campaign in the Ninth District.

So completely uncovered do the Socialist party campaigners in the District, together with their Congress candidate, stand under the limelight of documentary facts that has been shed upon them; so utterly unable are they—even they, expert bamboozlers of the public though they are—to deny, let alone refute the damaging facts showered upon them; so utter is their rout and demoralization, and consequently mental and moral bankruptcy, that they have become slanderers of the population whose suffrage they solicit.

The salient fact of importance in the *Volkszeitung's* yarn is the slander hurled at the population of the District. According to that yarn, so many of them must have migrated, not from Russian despotism, but from their wives; so many of them must have fled, not to civic and political freedom, but from conjugal chains—so many of this sort of people must have settled in the District that the remotest hint of their deserted wives' ever turning up in America is enough to cause numerous people at a meeting to be filled with **fear**, and declare, “I'll vote for Hillquit, and keep her out!”

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