

DAILY PEOPLE



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EDITORIAL

AND NOW THEY TRY FORGERY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Jewish *Morgen Journal* of October 30, publishes the following self-explanatory letter.

"New York, October 29, 1908.

"To the Editor:

"I notice my name in the *Vorwaerts* [Hillquit, S.P. Jewish organ] as one of those who signed the campaign circular for Hillquit. I never signed that circular.

"Dr. H.J. Epstein,
"88 Madison st."

Commenting upon the forgery the *Morgen Journal* asks: "All that remains for us to remark is the question, How many more such 'true' signatures are to be found on the Hillquit appeal?"

The *Morgen Journal* might have asked this other question: "Who is the genius who schemed the forgery, and is attempting the saw-dust game in behalf of the candidature of Mr. Hillquit?" Seeing it did not occur to the *Morgen Journal* to ask that question, the *Daily People* asks it.

While awaiting an answer—which probably will be "Disrupter!" howled from behind some closed door—the incident is food for contemplation.

We do not know who Dr. H.J. Epstein is. If he is a stranger to the Movement, and thus is unacquainted with the slum portions thereof, he will wonder. And well might he. Anyone, however, who is sufficiently in touch with the Movement to be aware of its slum sections, will not wonder.

None such will wonder at an election manoeuvre from the Hillquit camp that partakes of moral turpitude.

It is from that camp that bogus mining schemes are projected; it is from that camp that such get-rich-quick schemes as investing \$30 and taking out \$720 are

advertised, as did the *Call*; it is from that camp that bucketfuls of slander are hurled upon the Socialist Labor Party; it is from that camp that Preston, the S.L.P. nominee for President, an innocent workingman, whom a capitalist Nevada court allowed to be sentenced for murder on the charge to the jury by the State attorney that his sentence, even if he was sacrificed, was needed because it would tend to induce moneyed men outside of the State to invest in Nevada mines—it was from that camp that the capitalist howl of “murderer!” was re-echoed against the sacrificed workingman; it is from that camp that the International Socialist Congress decrees receive slaps in the face; it is from that camp that the howl goes up against “the hordes of Asia and Europe” and that anti-immigration resolutions issue; it is from that camp that the documentary charges against its treasonable conduct is met with the cry of “Disrupter!” What wonder that in the identical camp forgers should be found, who circulate forgeries as the only available props for a discredited and now desperate candidate!

When the S.L.P., in the intensity of the fight forced upon it to uphold unblemished the principle and the character of Socialism, at times, perhaps, indulges in the venal sin of excessive sternness, the act is denounced by that forgers-harboring camp as deadly sin; when they now commit the deadly sin of forgery they will surely shrug their shoulders, as they regularly do in all such occasions, and wonder why so much noise about such a trifle.

Where faults are denounced as crimes, crimes are pardoned as faults—forgery, no doubt, among the list.

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