

EDITORIAL

## SPOKANE'S AMENDMENT OF KNIPPERDOLINGISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**O-DAY'S Spokane correspondence<sup>1</sup> more than confirms the correctness of the views expressed by this office on the subject of the so-called Free-Speech Fight in that city. The account given by our correspondent of the craven attitude struck by the ringleaders when arrested, and their anxiety to disconnect themselves from the "organization," and, thereby, from responsibility, uncovers and even worse state of slummism than even this office, well-posted though it is, ventured to anticipate.

That there were schemers pulling the strings of the rowdyism masked behind "Free Speech" in Spokane; that a part of the scheme was to gather shekels; that another part of the scheme was a grand stand play to conceal the utter break-down of the bogus I.W.W., the broken reed upon which another broken reed, the S.P., is leaning;—all this was known in this office. But this office also knew that schemers can not operate without dupes. The dupes being evidently there, and evidently so fanaticized as to allow themselves to be martyred, the conclusion was justified that, when finally made to toe the chalk-mark, the schemers would, at least for stage effect, make some show of conviction, some show of manhood and womanhood. This office gave them credit for too much.

An incident, oft referred to in these columns, of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, was the insanity that broke out among the Anabaptists, with the city of Munster as their hot-bed. Luther had said something about the Naked Truth. The Munster mental cripples interpreted the words in their own way. They stripped to the skin, men and women, and in that guise rushed maniacally through the streets

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<sup>1</sup> [To be appended.—R.B.]

of the city. He or she who did not cast off all clothing was excluded from the saintly band of the Naked Truth, was a worshiper of Anti-Christ, and had to be exterminated. A leader of these lunatics was one Knipperdoling. They seized the city of Munster, turned it into a bedlam, and heroically, to the last man and woman, held the place against all the military forces hurled against them until they were crushed.

A sort of Knipperdolingism is what broke out in Spokane. In honor of the Spokane variety it was to be expected that the Knipperdoling leaders would have imitated their Knipperdoling mental ancestor in not showing the white feather—at least not too quickly. But they did.

As amenders of Marx, the Spokane Knipperdolings have gone further and amended their prototype Knipperdoling himself.

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](mailto:slpns@slp.org)