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EDITORIAL

S.L.P.-MEN EVERYWHERE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AN anonymous correspondent to the *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, the German daily organ of the Socialist party in this city, writes from Lincoln, Neb., in that paper's issue of the 17th of this month that things are bad with the S.P. in Lincoln. He tells of a Local of the S.P. having once flourished there with 48 members, but having since vanished; and he accounts for the vanishing by the activity of Socialist Labor Party men and their press, both of whom "circulated calumnies."

Another German S.P. paper, the Chicago weekly *Neues Leben* of the 11th of this month has an article in which this passage occurs: "Here in Chicago, and figuring conservatively, we have enrolled in the County Central Committee, since 1904, on an average 100 new members a month. That makes 1,200 a year, and 4,800 in these four years. What has become of these members? Instead of having grown, most of the branches have a hard time to keep together. Judging from a letter from Ralph Kornold, National Organizer now in Arizona, things are no better elsewhere. 'The party,' says he, 'is in a bad way. During the last eleven months I have traveled through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Washington, California and Arizona. Everywhere I found absence of interest, the Locals in a state of dissolution, the spirit fled.'"

From this it is obvious that the S.L.P. men and their activity are not limited to Lincoln, Neb., but extend through a vaster area.

What now remains to be considered is whether the S.L.P. activity, that works so disastrously upon the S.P., consists in "circulating calumnies." Upon this subject we shall summon to the witness-stand no less an S.P. authority than Mr. A.M. Simons. In his letter, dated last November 19 and addressed to Mr. William English Walling, the gentleman states: "The S.P. has become a hissing and a by-word with

the actual wage-workers of America. It has become a party of two extremes. On the one hand are a bunch of intellectuals, like myself and Spargo and Hunter and Hillquit, on the other is a bunch of ‘never-works,’ demagogues and would-be intellectuals, a veritable ‘lumpen-proletariat.’ The actual wage workers, the men who are really fighting the class struggle are outside.” This statement has all the more weight considering it was meant for inside information. From which it is clear that the plight of the S.P. is not the consequence of S.L.P. “calumnies” but of facts that the S.L.P. has all along been publishing and proving, to wit, that the S.P. is false to Socialism and a traitor to the working class, as any organization must be that is run by a combination of stage-strutting intellectuals, on one end, and would-be intellectuals, on the other.

Taking the two testimonies together the bottom is knocked from under the anonymous correspondent of the *Volkszeitung*. It is not in one locality only, it is in all, that the genius of the S.L.P. is at work. And that genius deals not IN calumny; it deals WITH calumny, by throttling the calumny in the calumnious throats of the S.P. intellectuals and would-be intellectuals.

The S.L.P. men are everywhere, and everywhere their mighty work is in progress—the work of tearing down the false and setting up the true Labor or Socialist Movement.

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