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EDITORIAL

## “SIEGREICHEREI” SILENCED.

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“SIEG” is the German for the English “triumph.”  
“Reich” is the German for the English “rich.”  
“Seigreich” is the German for the English “rich in triumphs,” or  
“triumphantly marching.”

“Rei” is a German termination, which stuck to the end of a word, means, in English, “Twaddle about” the word to which it is suffixed.

Since five years ago, when the wave of Socialist party Will-o’-the-wispism had spent itself, and the inevitable receding set in the, the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* found it necessary to indulge in “Siegreicherei.” Falsified returns and quibbly arguments, required to help the paper keep its face were resorted to in bombastic “Siegreichereis.” There was a “Siegreicherei” in 1905; another “Siegreicherei” came in 1906; a third “Siegreicherei” was needed in 1907; and, of course the paper “Siegreichereid” like a demented empty beer-barrel in 1908. This year’s further S.P. slump, with New York leading, must have proved too much. The logic of events was too sequent, besides crushing. The *Volkszeitung* has quit “Siegreicherying.” To-day it crawls.

Eleven years ago, 1898, the Socialist ticket in Greater New York polled 15,407 votes. That was “going too slow” the Socialist Labor Party was told. And it was told other things besides.

The S.L.P. was told that the reason for the “slow progress” of the Party was its “hatefully hostile” attitude towards the Unions. “But do we otherwise than state facts? Is it ‘hateful hostility’ to expose the corruption of the labor leaders? to warn the rank and file against strikes engineered by employers? to enlighten the men upon the iniquities of Gompersism? to protest against resolutions offering Cleveland the Union’s services in a projected war against England? to denounce a system of

labels whose only two consequences were to advertise the employer’s goods and to put bribe moneys into label-fakirs’ pockets? Etc.? Etc.? Are not these facts? Is it hatefulness on the part of Socialism to teach? These are not Unions: they are guilds. If facts are hateful, can he who exposes them be charged with hatefulness and not he who commits them?” To these questions, put by the S.L.P., the *Volkszeitung* element retorted: “That may all be so, but that is not the way to go about it. The way to go about it is ‘bore from within.’ We must not be too intolerant. We must go with the Unions.”

What was meant by “going with the Unions,” and not to be “too intolerant” was obvious. It meant to “lie low”; it meant to echo the fakirs’ denunciation as a “Union-wrecker,” a “scab,” a “paid agent of Tom Platt,” everyone who dared take a stand within or without the Union in favor of class-conscious Unionism, that bona-fide economic organization which, in the language of Marx, alone could give birth to a true Socialist party. It meant, of course, more; it meant to become the dupes, the despised dupes, at that, eventually the corrupted agents of the labor-fakirs. The poltroonish, ignoramus and pretentious caricatures of the talented Social Democrats of Germany, who constitute the *Volkszeitung* Corporation, would not listen. They were “to show the S.L.P. how to attract the workingmen.” They bolted the S.L.P. in 1899, and started to “show.”

Eleven years of “showing” have passed since—eleven years of lickspittling the boots of the labor-lieutenants of the capitalist class; eleven years of parroting the, to the guilds, attractive, to Socialism and the proletariat baneful theories about the workers “paying the taxes” and of “race inferiorities”; eleven years of doing violence to their conscience (even such ash-barrel refuse as the *Volkszeitung* gentlemen have a conscience, however torpid) by heaping calumny upon the S.L.P. Eleven years have passed and we have been “shown.” As the net proceeds of these eleven years of “showing,” the aggregate vote of the two parties is to-day below what it was eleven years ago, 3,493 votes below!

We have been shown. The Movement has been shown.

It has been shown by the S.P.’s collapsed vote, New York leading, that Sense is not to be promoted by preaching Nonsense; that Socialism is not to be won by cowardice; that a Revolution is not to be brought about by monkeyshines. It has

been shown that Labor is not to be captured by fly-paper, and can only be disgusted by corruption and poltroonery.

It has been shown by the S.L.P.’s unterrified posture—like the flag of the Mexican Republic that, never a minute lowered, waved defiant from the craggy mountain-top near Acapulco, unreachable to the invading French forces during the whole period of Maximilian’s attempted clerical Empire—that the root of Socialist Logic can weather any storm, how fiercely soever the storm might tear up the earth and rend the air.

Had the S.L.P.’s voice been throttled out in these eleven fateful years, no doubt the *Volkszeitung* would be “Siegreicherying” even now. ’Tis not the logic of events alone, an important factor in the turning of these eleven years, from merely fateful, into eleven years fruitful of promise for the future, has been the unshakable posture of the S.L.P.

Hence the “Siegreicherei” is silenced.

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