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EDITORIAL

LO, A NEW PARTY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

T IS called the Washingtonian party.

It made its bow to the world through the columns of the Piscatawaytown, N.J., *Raritan Independent*.

It made its bow with a thrilling introduction in which it proclaims that it “will revolutionize, yes, must revolutionize the World.” Saying so it flung its banner to the breeze.

That banner is its platform.

The American banner consists of stripes—thirteen of them, and, now, forty-five stars. The banner that the Washingtonian party has unfurled is all stars.

Let’s cite them—at least the most brilliant among the galaxy.

Star No. 1—“The abolition of the United States Patent Office,” the same being “the bulwark of monopoly, cupidity and, greed.”—And the fool Socialists have been prating about private ownership of the means of production—land and capital being the bulwark of slavery.

Star No. 2—“The erection and operation by the people” of “grain elevators and storehouses”{,} the same “to be stationed fort-like” at the principal ports in order “to guard the State and Nation’s commerce from the wanton attacks of the Railroad-Standard Oil terminal conspiracy.”—And the wild-eyed Socialists have been scheming to end the wanton attacks by ending the conspiracy itself.

Star No. 3—“The enactment of a humanitarian law providing for the three platoon fire and police system.”—And the dull Socialists have been claiming that humanity’s interests demanded the workers be guaranteed the full return of their labor!

Star No. 4—Provision for a “money of the people,” the same to be “printed in sufficient quantities to stimulate American industry.”—And the cart-before-the-

horse Socialists have been claiming that the stimulus to industry must come from the abolition of wage slavery, and that “money,” under Socialism, will cease to figure!

Star No 5—The enactment of laws to “break up the express conspiracies”; to abolish “millionaire monopolists”; “to suppress cornering of the necessities of life”; to prevent “raising the price of oil, coal, etc.”; to make impossible “land grants to avaricious railroads and other great conspiracies”; etc., etc. This is a veritable cluster of double and triple stars.—And the ignorant Socialists have been pretending that, with the abolition of capitalism, there would be no more need of such laws than there is need of railroad tunnels on prairie lands!

Star No. 6—“The enactment of a weekly pay law compelling all corporations to settle all wages at the end of every week.”—And the on-all-fours Socialists would leave no opportunity for such idealism by abolishing the wages system itself!

And many more such stars.

The sad probability must be admitted that there will be enough unspeakable Socialists to deny that the Washingtonian party will reach its goal—the revolutionizing of the World. And these perambulating lumps of unspeakableness will make undue use of the accident that the Washingtonian party was launched on a Friday. They will play upon the superstition of the ignorant, and claim that the Washingtonian party’s natal day marks it Ichabod. Will the Socialists never learn?

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