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EDITORIAL

BERGER'S MISS NO. 7.

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THE several Trust investigations that have been conducted by House Committees of this special session of the 62nd Congress were initiated through a resolution, Resolution 157, introduced in the House on May 9 by Representative Robert L. Henry of Texas, Chairman of the Committee on Rules.

The resolution provided for the election of a committee of nine members to inquire into the doings of the American Sugar Refining Company, better known as the Sugar Trust. While the powers of the Committee were broad, specific channels of investigation were pointed out to its attention—the relations of the Trust with other concerns engaged in the same business; the effect of the Trust's conduct upon competition; its effect upon the price of sugar.

The “first and lone Socialist in Congress” labors under the disadvantage that, in order to make a set speech, he must obtain “time” from either of the two—the Democratic or the Republican—“time” controllers during the debate on any motion. But the disadvantage is theoretical, only. Making ample allowance for the practical effect of the theoretic difficulty, a SOCIALIST, that is, a Member of mental and moral fiber will find no unremovable difficulty to assert his right to “voice,” as he exercises his right to “vote,” on any matter before the House. De La Matyr, the Greenback Member from Indiana during the days of Greenback agitation, tho' a “lone” Member, had his say, whenever he wanted. Moreover, as has been repeatedly pointed out in these columns, the parliamentary usage of the House, as well as of the Senate, gives ample scope for a Member, however “lone,” to be heard—provided, of course, he has “anything to say,” and the bravery, born of knowledge and integrity of conviction, to say what he has to say.

Resolution 157 being before the House, and the debate on foot, it was the

duty of a Socialist Member, all the more imperatively if he is a "lone" one, to move to amend:—

"And the said Committee shall also inquire into the general conditions of work that prevail in the plants of the American Sugar Refining Co. and the various corporations controlled thereby, as follows:

"First. As to the hours of work;

"Second. As to the wages received by each employe—not the 'average wage';

"Third. As to the sanitary conditions of the shops and yards;

"Fourth. As to the number of accidents, and the nature, and the cause thereof;

"Fifth. As to the violations of Factory Acts committed by the said company and companies."

It would not have been necessary to back up the amendment with arguments. Each sentence in the amendment would have been an argument in itself, and notice to the galley slaves chained by Poverty to the benches of the Sugar Trust galley, that their day of deliverance had actually dawned. Would the Speaker have ruled out the amendment? So much the worse for him.

But there was no amendment to be ruled out. The notice that their Cause was being attended to, in other words, that Socialism had really broken into the Halls of Congress, was not given to the wretched Sugar Trust proletariat, and, through them, to the rest of the wage slave class. The silence—from the only quarter that should have aught to say of interest to the wage slave,—was, on the contrary, a notice, a gloomy notice, a heartbreaking notice that the Exploiter still rules the roost, undisputed, in his political burg—that, not a "lone Socialist," but a "regulation politician" occupies the seat of the 5th Congress District of Wisconsin, more intent upon securing the Speaker's automobile for the comfort of his own District of Columbia Committee, than upon issues that affect the comfort and the prospects of the proletariat.

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