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EDITORIAL

HERVE DELIGHTED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN *La Guerre Sociale* for the week ending September 24, Gustave Herve has a rollicking article at the cost of the “anti-politics” Anarchists.

The article is a commentary upon the late national convention of the Confederation Generale du Travail.

Herve refers to the report, made to the convention by Sassenbach, the delegate of the united German Unions, showing a membership 2,500,000 strong and 25,000,000 marks spent on strikes, and concluding with the observation: “It is doubtful that we could have had such results if we did not live in accord with the Social Democratic party.”

Herve then quotes Bergmans, the delegate of the Belgian Unions as saying: “I bring to you hearty greetings from the Belgian Socialist Labor Democracy,” and in order to drive the point still closer home, Herve adds: “And, fearing lest the word ‘Socialist’ might have grated upon certain French comrades who are suffering from a certain phobia of the Socialist party, Bergmans smoothly went on to say: ‘Of course, you are not unaware of the fact that close bonds unite the Unions with the Socialist party.’”

In this style Herve goes on, quoting right and left, coming down at the end to “our hymns—the *Internationale* and the *Carmagnole*,” making the anti-political element look more and more ridiculous, and likewise more and more ridiculous the pure and simple politicasters.

In one of his novels, Voltaire’s hero is in a perpetual roar of laughter—the lay and clerical political mystifications seem to tickle him with all their ten fingers—till finally he places his arms akimbo, and doubling up like a jack-knife, condenses all his previous roars into one mighty roaring. Throughout the article one can see Gus-

tave Herve in the posture of his fellow-Frenchman Voltaire's hero before the all around fools—laughing fit to split his sides.

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