

EDITORIAL

A CASE IN POINT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is safe to say that, of all the members of the Reichstag, not one, outside of the Socialist delegation, accepts the “materialist conception of history”; it is safe to say that, with the exception of the distinguished men who compose the Socialist delegation, the rest of the delegates in the Reichstag are devotees of “Feeling” and of “Sentiment”; finally, it is safe to say that hardly any, if any at all, of the non-Socialist members in the Reichstag but some time or other has sneered at Socialism, or even “indignantly spurned” it as “sordidly material.”

Such a background is the proper foil for the service to the cause of humanity rendered by the Socialist delegation in the Reichstag, led by the Doctor of Jurisprudence Liebknecht, in exposing the contemptible “patriotism” of the large German manufacturers of war material, and thereby putting a spoke into the wheels of war.

While British “Liberals” and “Conservatives”; while French “Republicans,” “Legitimists,” “Bonapartists,” and “Radicals”; while German “Agrarians,” “Imperial Liberals” and “Centrists”; in short, while the several shades of the Ruling Class in Europe convene “International Peace Congresses” and set up “Hague Courts of Arbitration”;—while the bourgeois thus indulge in Sentiment, one and all their potentates pull the wires for the wholesale homicide of wasteful war; their orators and statesmen inflame national hatreds; their ecclesiastics—as was notably and recently done by the Pope on the occasion of the Italian war in North Africa—“bless” the deadly arms of their respective nationalities; and the “Pillars” of their society, the merchant princes, keep paid agents in foreign countries there to fan the embers of war-breeding fears, in order to drive their own Governments to invest more extensively in their own goods, wares and merchandise—guns, swords, cannon, powder, bayonets. . . .

With this process going on, on the one hand, on the other hand there are the swellingly embattled ranks of the “grovellingly materialistic” Socialists, their feet flatly planted upon the material facts, the sole force in the world, to-day, that makes for Peace on Earth.

Socialist forces in Europe whistled back the dogs of war that, four years ago, were straining at the leash in the hands of Imperial Germany and Bourgeois Republican France; only Socialist voices were raised in Italy against the war of rapine that the Government started with Tripoli; the only organized voice, heard, either in Spain or this country, against the Sugar-and-Tobacco-Trust-incited war, which resulted in our unhappy annexation of Porto Rico and the Philippines, was the voice of Organized Socialism; it was the Socialist International Congress, hurriedly convened last year at Basle, that threw the “fear of the Lord” into the hearts of the European Powers, panting for a hand in the Balkan conflict;—and it is a Socialist, one who served a term of military imprisonment for denouncing militarism, who now vocalizes, with Facts not Sentiment, the sense of the German Socialists for Peace, and who dealt the blow squarely in the face of War.

In Socialism lies the world’s only hope for human conditions on earth—just because Socialism knows that Sentiment is to Matter and Fact what powder is to the bullet. As powder, without the bullet, produces but a flash in the pan, Sentiment without matter produces Hypocrisy.

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