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EDITORIAL

LEFT IN THE LURCH—AS USUAL.

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The woe-begone figures in this city for the candidates of the Organized Scabbery, Debs, Hanford, etc., tell a tale so thrilling and convincing that the painful impression they give—who does not feel pained at the sight of even an adversary left silly in a hole?—might almost cause the valuable lesson to be lost.

The Social Democratic vote in this city is substantially, a vote polled by what may be called the *Volkszeitung* colony, the *Volkszeitung* Germans. Upon these gentlemen the Organized Scabbery of the city in particular, of the country at large, has long been riding. When the Socialist Labor Party took hold in 1890, things changed. The Party would not allow the Organized Scabbery to practice their deception upon it, and thus have their hands all the freer to cheat their own rank and file all the more successfully. The Labor Fakir began sighing after the good old days, of the “good old Socialists,” when he could do as he liked. The harder the Party made the life of the Fakir, the harder he sighed. For a time the *Volkszeitung* element worked with the Party, expecting speedy success. But success in such cases cannot be speedy; and, as this colony had no other intellectual guidance than the block-head *Volkszeitung*, it became more and more restive. Via the *Volkszeitung*, upon whose poltroon nature the Organized Scabbery could easily work, the colony was inoculated with the, to the Fakirs, convenient theory of “boring from within,” which meant to lie low, keep quiet, avoid “trouble,” never show up the scoundrel Fakir, whoop it up for him whenever he wanted a strike and whenever he kept it up for the sake of his dues and salary,—in short, “boring from within” meant to play in the Labor Movement the disgraceful role of the complaisant husband. Such a dogma was peculiarly suitable to the character of the *Volkszeitung*. It was told by the Organized Scabbery that, with such a “trade union policy,” the Socialist Movement would quickly make gigantic progress, while, upon the trade union lines that the Party was pursuing, all progress would be impossible. This convenient theory the *Volkszeitung* swallowed like a noodle, and ladled out to its uninformed constituency.

The result was the crash of last year. The Socialist Labor Party stuck to its colors: it struck the Organized Scabbery harder and harder blows; it nailed these lackeys of Capital at every turn: it brought light into darkness. Fully aware that for a long time such work could not materialize into tangible results, but equally certain that results, if at all obtainable, could come in no other way, the Socialist Labor Party hewed on close to the line, with that dauntless valor and unflinching calmness that are at once the distinctive marks of physical, moral and intellectual virility.

The poltroon *Volkszeitung* took the opposite course. Its policy was from start to finish dictated by the Organized Scabbery: no slander was too vile for it to refuse circulation to: no act of treason to the workingman was too black for it to withhold its support from. Did the Organized Scabbery of the International Cigarmakers' Union want to keep the strikers from gaining a point so that the Organized Scabbery might continue to draw strike salaries? the *Volkszeitung* chimed in. And so on all along the line. This policy was dictated by the Organized Scabbery, and it was accepted through the promise being made that the Organized Scabbery would cast their "tens of thousands" of votes for the *Volkszeitung*, and cause Organized Labor to do likewise. Thus the ticket of the *Volkszeitung* was the ticket of Organized Scabbery, and the *Volkszeitung* expected a huge vote.

Election day came and passed,—and the *Volkszeitung* colony finds itself left in the lurch, as it always had been by the Organized Scabbery. The big vote did not materialize, the "boring from within" was a fiasco. After superhuman efforts to poll its own colony's vote, the *Volkszeitung* finds that its poll is trifling, below even what it was when the Party's whole vote was furnished by the *Volkszeitung* colony! The *Volkszeitung* ticket polled only the vote of the *Volkszeitung* colony!

The Organized Scabbery or Labor Fakir must rank himself on election day with the outspoken parties of Capitalism, he has no other choice, and, underhandedly he is bound to exercise his full influence in that direction with the rank and file. Moreover the rank and file holds the Organized Scabbery that now bullies it in supreme contempt. The rank and file may still mistrust the Socialist Labor Party; but so long as it does, it is not going to be pulled politically by its Organized Scabbery: it will stay where it is. He who "bores from within" is, to use a vulgarism, "played for a sucker." And that is just what the figures for the Social Democracy in this city prove that the *Volkszeitung* was played for by the Organized Scabbery.

A Revolutionary Political Army may not consist of such element. The Socialist Labor Party is nobody's fool. It is the nucleus for the forces that will overthrow the

capitalist class. All else is moonshine.

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

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