

The People.

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SECOND EDITORIAL

INSTRUCTIVE PAGES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Two weeks ago THE PEOPLE published the application of Section New York to the Attorney-General of this State for the dissolution of the Volkszeitung Corporation; last week a part of the opposing affidavits of the corporation was published and commented on; this week there will be found on the fourth page two supplementary affidavits in support of the application for dissolution. These two supplementary affidavits are in rebuttal of those affidavits offered by the corporation, and expose the fraudulency of these on the subject of the corporation's solvency. They do more, however. They help illustrate the nature of the barnacles that are apt to fasten upon the ship of the Social Revolution, barnacles whose perfidy to the cause of Labor it is often difficult to detect, but when detached must be given short shrift. These affidavits are instructive pages in the Labor Movement.

A special class of crooks that the Labor Movement attracts consists of gentlemen who seek to line their own nests out of the misery of the workers. One of the favorite schemes of such crooks is to set up a howl against some particular wrong being done to labor, yell and write on the "sufferings inflicted upon labor" by such wrong, and—set themselves up as collectors of funds to "relieve the distress." The funds so collected are either wholly appropriated by the barnacles, or are kept and used for as long a period as possible. The affidavits published in this issue convict the *Volkszeitung* of this practice.

The Idaho horrors were promptly swooped down upon by the *Volkszeitung*. Day after day it revelled in articles on the subject, and—of course, issued a call for contributions "to relieve the distress of the strikers." Moneys came in,—credulously, confidingly. The trouble in Idaho started last April; now, then, down to January the 10th of this year,—the date of the Corporation's affidavits,— THE TWO HUNDRED AND ODD DOLLARS THUS COLLECTED HAD NOT YET BEEN FORWARDED TO THE SUFFERERS FOR WHOM THEY WERE DESTINED BY THE DONORS!

Nor is this an isolated instance. When the recent strike in Denmark was on, the *Volkszeitung* also hastened to announce its anxiety to receive funds “for the distressed strikers”; funds did pour in;—but were held here, and not forwarded until a full month after the strike was over, and when “questions began to be asked.”

When Powderly was overthrown, he fell before the charge of virtually the same crimes. Such a man, he was told to his face, was a blot to a labor organization, and, if occupying a position of trust and confidence, was a danger-spot that could not be too soon cast off; and cast off he was in short order. Such a blot and danger-spot the *Volkszeitung* has long been; in the sacred temple of the Labor Movement, it has long plied its harlotry; the ulcer cannot be too promptly and thoroughly cauterized; and cauterized it shall be.

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