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THIRD EDITORIAL

## SHOOTING FIRE-CRACKERS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**C**apitalist papers in Boston, Worcester and other Massachusetts towns, together with their New York Kangaroo appendages, broke out again last week in jubilant articles purporting to announce the break-up of the Socialist Labor Party in Massachusetts. The special "event" which they claimed to "report" was "the capture of the State Committee of the S.L.P. of Massachusetts" by the Kangaroos, and the defection of Sections. If only rat-cellar conspiracies, backed by capitalist newspaper reports thereof, had creative potency, instead of being the imbecile impotencies that they are, the Socialist Labor Party would long have ceased to be the power that it is, and would have become the political clown that the capitalist foe would like to see it. Of course, there is nothing in the "reports"; no sensible man needs to be told that.

Are, then, the reports in these papers purely imaginative? No; a something did happen; and what that something is merits a passing line or two: just enough to characterize the feather-brained foe that presumes to measure itself with the Party, and also characterize the visionary capitalist politicians who expect assistance from such allies.

A few Kangaroos, whom the Party had dumped, together with some others of their kin still within the Party, but who knew they had reached the end of their tether and were under charges for a variety of Kangaroo virtues, foregathered in Boston, thirteen in all, behind locked doors; issued credentials to themselves; pronounced themselves the "State Committee of the Socialist Labor Party of Massachusetts"; and fulminated a resolution against the Party;—in other words, shot a fire-cracker at the Party. As the Party, having polled the requisite percentage, comes wholly under the election laws of the State, the qualification for membership in the State Committee is regulated by law; and the S.L.P. State

Committee, duly elected and qualified, is in possession. If the election officials of the State of Massachusetts at all take notice of this fraudulent “State Committee,” it will be to clap the bars upon the bulk of its members.—And that’s all there is of it.

The ignorant and corrupt element, whom the Party has been shedding since last July 10th, is so feather-brained that it imagines the report of exploding fire-crackers can disconcert the Party.

The walls of Jericho may have tumbled before the trumpet-blasts of Joshua, but the walls of the S.L.P. are not subject to incantations.

The S.L.P. Sections of Massachusetts, from Boston down, stand solid as ever, ever more organizations being added right along; the Party’s State Committee is absolutely sound, absolutely safe, absolutely in the S.L.P.’s hand. There is in the Massachusetts Socialist situation not one drop of Gilead-balm—either in the shape of dues for crooks, or in the shape of “prospects” for “unappreciated genius,” or yet in the shape of opportunities for Ward Heelers to fish in.

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

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