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EDITORIAL

HANNA IS LOSING HIS TEMPER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE president of the American Federation of Labor had better betimes put the brake down upon his ire against the Socialist Labor Party. At the rate he is going on he will simply strangle himself with rage. Once strangled, neither would he be able to relieve himself, nor the public to enjoy the spectacle.

It is now just about a year ago that Mr. Marcus (Aurelius or not Aurelius) Hanna uttered himself at a certain banquet on the Socialist Labor Party. The campaign of 1900 was just behind him, and the experience thereof inside of him. From his national executive committee he touched the button, the whole Republican press of the land blossomed out with articles booming the Social Democratic party. The pace was set by the personal organ of the chairman of the New York State Republican Committee. The *Albany Evening Journal* of October 9, 1900, in a lengthy article, pronounced the S.L.P. dead and the Social Democratic party the thing. According to it the S.L.P. would not be heard from after election. Similar articles, many of them illustrated, appeared in Republican papers elsewhere; and, like in the Butler campaign of 1884, the Republican party furnished the audiences to the Social Democratic party meetings to an extent that truly "taxed the largest halls." As in the campaign of '84, the Republican manoeuvre failed. In '84, Cleveland, who was thereby to be defeated, won out; in 1900, the S.L.P., which was to be smashed, bobbed up unsmashed, serenely, more resolute than ever for the fray; while the bogus Socialist party, with all its fly-paper attachments polled a ridiculous vote. The Hanna stomach felt ill. Speaking at the banquet referred to Mr. Hanna admitted the fact that the issue henceforth lay, not between Republicans and Democrats, but between the Republican party and the "dangerous Socialists." At that time, "dangerous Socialists" is the worst term that Mr. Hanna in his anger applied to the Socialist Labor Party that had survived all his manoeuvres.

A year passes. Mr. Hanna in the meantime makes another move. He resorts to mystifications. He seeks to render sacrosanct the unhallowed altar of Capitalism at which he is a leading sacrificer of victims. To this end he seeks to cover that altar with the altar cloth of Labor. Such altar cloth is, of course, not to be had for any such purpose. He must look for a spurious "Labor" altar cloth, and he gets it from the crew that his Social Democratic party dummy had just burnt incense to as "nobly waging the class struggle." The hocus-pocus is performed "under the auspices of the Civic Federation," and the Organized Scabbery is worshiped by capitalist Labor-fleecerdom as "Labor." Now, assuredly, thought the Hanna college of priesthood, we have cornered and spiked the guns of the Socialist Labor Party. To render assurance doubly sure, the button is once more touched: in the language of Mr. Hanna himself, uttered here in New York:

"The metropolitan press of the county is unanimous in favor of this movement. I have thousands of editorials on the subject, clipped from papers of every degree, ranging from the metropolitan daily to the once-a-week country paper, and among the whole lot there are but two of these unfavorable articles, and these were clipped from a Socialist organ of a scurrilous nature."

It evidently is the experience of the campaign of 1900 over again. The button was touched, now as then; now as then, the manufactured response was highly satisfactory; but, now as then, the Socialist Labor Party declined to be hocus-pocused, and, now as then, its voice was heard,—unpleasantly so for Mr. Hanna; so unpleasant, that he loses his temper. From designating the S.L.P. as "dangerous" in 1901, he now goes to the length of styling it "scurrilous."

The President of the A.F. of L. is losing his temper fast; he should curb it.

"The President of the A.F. of L." is losing his temper?

Yes.

But it is not Hanna who is shown to be losing his temper?

So it is.

But is not Gompers the President of the A.F. of L.?

Thou little knowest of things! Gompers was deposed and bought off with a Vice-Presidential bone. Hanna is to-day the actual President of the ramshackle concern.

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