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EDITORIAL

WHEN ROGUES FALL OUT, ETC.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Rev. Herbert N. Casson was at one time a member of the Socialist Labor Party, Section Lynn, Mass. That was about seven years ago. He was then expelled from the Party, being too broad for the Party's "narrowness," in not tolerating "Labor Groceries," "Labor Churches," and other flea schemes of exploiting the Labor movement. Hardly expelled, the Rev. Herbert N. Casson plumped into the arms of his predecessor expellees from the S.L.P., who were then getting ready to set up a new party, and to start other flea schemes of exploiting the Labor Movement, such as, privately owned "Socialist" papers, etc. The gentry received the gentleman with acclaim. Jointly with a number of successor expellees and some new arrivals and not a few dupes, they carried out their plans, and the gentleman boomed his pals of armory-building and other malodorous schemes. But the partnership came to an end. There was not enough plunder to go around. As a result the Rev. Casson fell out with his associates, and now he is giving inside information. In the *Minnesota Union Advocate* of the 24th of last month, he successfully proves that the Bogus "Socialist," alias Social Democratic party leaders are, to quote his own words, "a wrangling, dishonest, bankrupt gang." He does so by taking up the last annual report of the concern, and says:

"This report made by Leon Greenbaum, national secretary of the Socialist Party, was not supposed to be seen by any one outside of the party. It is a long report and filled with the evidence of the Socialist Party's incompetence to manage even their own little affairs, not to speak of the affairs of the nation. The following twenty points are admitted in the report and shown to be true by the secretary himself:

- "(1) Factional fight in Utah.
- "(2) Factional fight in North Dakota.
- "(3) Factional fight in Nebraska.
- "(4) Dishonest appropriation of \$115 dues by New York Socialists.

- “(5) Dishonest appropriation of \$200 dues by New York Socialists.
- “(6) Fourteen state committees can’t or won’t pay dues.
- “(7) Kansas Socialists repudiate dues and refuse payment.
- “(8) Fight between Illinois Socialists and headquarters.
- “(9) Official reports suppressed by New York and Illinois Socialists.
- “(10) Wisconsin Socialists rebel against headquarters.
- “(11) Membership has fallen off in 15 States.
- “(12) Half of the local organizations pay no dues.
- “(13) Debt of \$310 repudiated by Eastern Socialists.
- “(14) Debt of \$334 repudiated by Socialist State Committees.
- “(15) Net debt of Socialist headquarters, \$1,835.62.
- “(16) Only 10,000 dues-paying members in the whole party.
- “(17) Headquarters makes a capitalistic profit of 10 per cent. on supplies.
- “(18) Pennsylvania Socialists tried to break up coal miners’ strike.
- “(19) Socialists tried to smash A.F. of L.
- “(20) Tried to smash trade union political movement in San Francisco.

“When this report was issued the head bosses of the Socialist Party at once made charges against the secretary who was honest enough to tell the facts, and he was dismissed, together with four other officials who agreed with him.

“One of the four officials, Mr. J.S. Roche, of St. Louis, sent me a copy of the report, so that what I say is not second-hand evidence. If any party Socialist denies the facts, ask him to produce the annual report of his party for 1902.

“The fact is that, so far as it has had power, the Socialist Party has been quite as corrupt a lot of wire-pullers as the Republican or Democratic parties. It has shown less competence than they have in managing its affairs, and it has been more boss-ridden than any party in existence.

“From first to last it has done nothing except to bring the principles of Socialism into discredit with all intelligent people. Its bigotry and fanaticism have been worthy of the middle ages, and its boss-rule has put Tammany Hall in the shade, even in the worst days of Tweed and Croker.”

When rogues fall out—they peach upon one another.