

EDITORIAL

“INTOLERANCE,” “BOSSISM,” ETC.

By DANIEL DE LEON

CHANCELLOR von Bulow has been having a tussle with the German Social Democrats in the Reichstag. How the gentleman came out of the fray may be judged from the following passage in his answer to the lashing that he received from von Vollmar. The Chancellor said:



PRINCE BERNHARD VON BULOW
(1849–1929)

“When Revisionism stepped up before Bebel with a petition for freedom of thought, he refused it Even a much respected Social Democratic paper spoke at the time of the intolerant demagogism of the German Social Democracy. And Revisionism meekly bowed the head, leaving the control with the Utopians who hold as a dogma the Marxian system, which the historic development of events has shaken to its very foundation.”

It is of no interest what Chancellor von Bulow holds regarding the Marxian system, of which, as Bebel very neatly said to the Chancellor, he, Bebel, was ready to take oath that the Chancellor had read not a single work. The Chancellor’s fix in this respect is that of all our American capitalist luminaries. Positively interesting, however, is the posture that the Chancellor strikes of champion of tolerance, and decrier of intolerance—a charge that he hurls at the German Social Democrats. In this respect, the Chancellor of the German Empire makes a positive contribution towards public enlightenment in this country on a subject of much present and more future interest.

“Intolerance” is one of the most common charges made against the Socialist Labor Party. There are two ways of disproving such charges. One is to join direct

issue and cite the instances to prove the falsity of the charge. This method, however, is cumbersome. It is a cumbersome thing to prove a negative. The other way is to cite conspicuously known persons who make the charge. If they are conspicuously known for tolerance, the charge would have a color of truth; if they are conspicuously known for the reverse of tolerance themselves, then the charge is, at least, probably untrue and on-lookers may form an idea of what lies back of it. The German Chancellor—the representative of a Government that muzzles the press, the representative of a Government whose chief tells 3,000,000 of his subjects to leave the country if his rule does not suit them—such a man throws valuable light on the charge of “intolerance” and on the quarters from which it proceeds.

“Intolerance,” “bossism,” etc., are cries that are uttered against the Socialist Labor Party only by people who, if they but had the opportunity would out-Herod Herod in intolerance and bossism. Without exception they are folks whose intolerance and bossism went to smash through S.L.P. democracy and sane tolerance.

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