

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 271.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE FATE OF FRAUD.

By DANIEL DE LEON

READERS of *The People* will remember the “Flash-Light on the Amsterdam Congress” that pilloried the two employes of the New Yorker Volkszeitung Corporation, who, as members of the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party delegation at the Congress, introduced a, from the Socialist standpoint, infamous anti-immigration resolution which, by its attempts to discriminate against what it pleased to call “backward races,” breathed the Gompers A.F. of L. proletarian-disrupting spirit, fomented racial animosities, and was so obviously an underhand, insidious attempt to play to the gallery of race prejudices and presumption, that the thing was howled down by the Congress. The matter was at the time treated in detail in *The People*, and the document reproduced in full. The *New Yorker Worker*, edited by one of the two guilty employes in question, now seeks to justify their infamy. It tries the feat in its issue of March 25. This is the caper it cuts: it says:

“The word ‘backward’ was used, and if it was ridiculous to use that word to describe peoples less advanced, in capitalist development, which was the point under discussion, then the framers of the resolution were in good company, for that is the word commonly used.”

Of course, there is no truth whatever in the insinuated claim that the term “backward RACES” is the term commonly used when the capitalist development of several countries is being compared. There is as little truth in that as in the *New Yorker Worker’s* recent falsehood that the Socialist papers in Germany are owned by private corporations like the Volkszeitung Corporation. When the subject under consideration is that of capitalist development, everything might be up except the respective RACES. Indeed, when the capitalist development of a country is the question, then, not the people, not the RACE of that country, but its CAPITALIST,

its RULING CLASS is the thing in mind. The resolution in question, however, distinctly speaks of “backward races.”

So-ho! The RACE and the CAPITALIST CLASS are one!—Not bad!

Of course, there is no truth in the claim that “the point under discussion” was one of relative “capitalist development.” The “point under discussion” was that of RACES, specifically that large majority of each RACE or PEOPLES to whom the term “capitalist development” could be applied only in mockery. They are the victims of the “capitalist development” of the capitalist class: they are the working class, actual or potential. THEY were the subject of discussion, and them the resolution attempted to bar from emigrating—in genuine Gompers style.

So-ho! Because, when discussing the relative advance made by the capitalist classes of several countries, it is perfectly proper to designate the less developed ones as “backward,” THEREFORE it is equally proper that RACES, the PEOPLE, in short, the proletarians, be stigmatized as “backward,” and with that for a basis, rear a superstructure that dumps into the ditch the Marxian exhortation “Proletarians of all countries, unite”! and keep them separated by invidious anti-immigration laws!

It is a pretty pickle into which the *New Yorker Worker* has got itself. But that is ever the fate of people who, instead of hitching their cart to the stars, hitch it to a dung-wagon; instead of being true to principle, have no use for principle except as a cloak for corruption. From one tangle they are bound to fall headlong into another.

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

Uploaded November 2007

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