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EDITORIAL

DRIVEN TO ADMIT THE TRUTH.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE *Worker* of the 8th of this month contains the following signed article by its business manager:

“Inside News of *The Worker*.”

“The Socialist Co-operative Publishing Association, which has published *The Worker* at a deficit for so many, many years for the sake of the movement, has been sorely tried in the last few months. Our readers have only partly learned the truth. The *Volkszeitung* and *The Worker* for many years were made to suffer directly for the contention of rival unions. The slightest oversight on the part of the management or the editorial staff was given the meanest interpretation. The *Volkszeitung* was made to lose thousands of readers for its championship of this or that strike in the interest of the working class, and would have succumbed to the onslaught of enraged firms and corporations directly affected, had it not been for the support of the German progressive unions. Recently the Association was compelled to advance the wages of its many union employes. It could not do otherwise. The price of paper also advanced, so that the expenses were increased about one hundred dollars weekly. The Association then notified the State Committee that unless it assumed the publication of *The Worker*, then the recognized standard Socialist paper of the largest city of the country, would be no more after July 1, 1907. The question before the comrades of the Atlantic states is: Shall *The Worker* live or die? If the comrades decide for the former, then it means effort and sacrifices of a nature still unknown to the native comrades. This is the moment which will demonstrate whether they are made of the proper material out of which Socialists are cast.—Frederick Krafft, Manager.”

Extensive comment on the above quotation is unnecessary. Plainly and bluntly, it sustains the position held by the Socialist Labor Party on the subjects to which it refers.

First—Individuals should not try to dominate the Socialist movement. They cannot. The cloven hoof of a privately-owned Socialist press, trampling on the very

ideals of the movement, at last gets tangled in the barb-wire fence which blocks the path of all small private industries. *The Worker* now admits this fact, and now flees for refuge to that “party ownership” which it has long been decrying as unspeakable “De Leonism.”

Second—*The Worker* admits its failure to be neutral on the union question. With its hand tied behind its back and its mouth gagged by the A.F. of L., it has at last been torn to pieces by those before whom it bowed and scraped. We congratulate Manager Krafft on the boldness of his confession, and the S.E.C. of the Socialist Party of New York on the thoroughness of its conversion. Will the S.P. of New York stop after this forward lunge, or will it press on to complete ownership of its press, to revolutionary industrial unionism, in short, to that course into which conditions are forcing every honest element of the American movement? Most sincerely does *The People* hope that a surprise is in store for those whose recollections of the history of *The Worker* fail to warrant great enthusiasm.

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

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