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EDITORIAL

## THE RIGHT THING DONE.

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**T**HE Berlin *Vorwaerts*, central organ of the German Social Democracy, gives in its issue of the 13th of the current month an interesting account of the attempt made by some British pure and simple Unionists, led by capitalistic officials of both Great Britain and Germany, to rope the German Social Democracy into playing the role of cat's-paw for the fishy purposes of the British and German reactionary schemers.

A circular was received in Berlin inviting people generally, the German Social Democracy, in particular, to organize a committee for the reception of "English Labor-leaders" who were about to visit the country. The signers of the circular were headed by Freiherr von Berlepsch. The circular itself set forth that the visit of the English Labor-leaders was the result of an invitation from the "German-English Fraternity Committee," and that the visitors were to be shown "the most important institutions of Berlin with an eye specially to the workingmen's interests." At the head of these "most important institutions with an eye specially to the workingmen's interests" which were to be honored with a visit, the circular mentioned the Hirsch-Duncker Unions—organizations builded and run by capitalist interests, and as reactionary, if the thing is possible, as the Mitchell Gompers concerns in America. The circular closed with this sentence: "Last year the German workers were received and greeted by His Majesty the King himself, through the representative of the Cabinet and the Country Board, as well as through the Lord Mayor and other distinguished personages." Finally, among the Committee there were, besides Berlepsch, the President of the Hirsch-Duncker Unions, Goldschmidt, and the Reichstag members Wiemer and Schrader, both of them, of course, capitalist dignitaries. The *Vorwaerts* closes the episode with the words: "Neither the party nor the Unions had, as may be easily understood, the slightest inclination to

serve as stuffing for battleship fanatics, Hirsch-Duncker Unions and the collection of social reformers which was crowded to the front.” The party kept away.

Of course the German party did the right thing. In this instance, however, the right thing was easily done. The German party has passed the period of struggle in such matters. Not so we here in America. The right thing, as the Socialist Labor Party would do exactly, and every time, requires here an amount of fortitude not demanded in Germany. The right thing, done in America, is immediately met by the howl of “Union-smashing!” raised by our Hirsch-Dunckers, backed by the weaklings and visionaries who imagine Hirsch-Dunckerism can be “converted” by the humble process of allowing oneself to be turned into stuffing for it.

But time and tide come to all men. The day will come when it will be as easy to do the right thing in America as in Germany—the day when the motley crew of weaklings and visionaries will have been swept away from the path of the Movement’s progress which they now encumber.

In the meantime, with an eye steady upon the easy-sailing open sea that lies beyond, the S.L.P. cautiously but determinedly threads the rock-strewn channel.

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