

EDITORIAL

ABBREVIATED BIOGRAPHY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

CONGRESSMEN are not, usually, modest folks. Give them an opportunity to toot their autobiographic horn, and they will bray long, loud and prolongedly enough. The Congressional Directory furnishes ample attestation of the fact.

Occasionally, however, one runs up against a modest Congressman. Of this phenomenon also the Congressional Directory furnishes illustrations.

An illustration in point is Representative McDermott of the fourth Illinois district, located in Chicago. All that he says of himself in the Congressional Directory for the present, the 63rd Congress, is:

“James Thomas McDermott, Democrat of Chicago, was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., February 13, 1872; married Miss Nellie Fleming, of Chicago; was elected to the Sixtieth, Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses, and re-elected to the Sixty-third Congress.”

This is short. Is it suspiciously short?

Perhaps a certain passage from the sworn-to confessions of Col. Martin M. Mulhall the lobbyist, and bribe-dispenser, and “field worker” for the National Association of Manufacturers may answer the question. The passage runs as follows:

“Representative McDermott of the Fourth Illinois district, elected as a labor union spokesman, was always in the pay of the National Association of Manufacturers’ lobby, and the beef and other Trusts supplied the cash for him to win campaigns.”

Should this passage be inserted in Representative McDermott’s sketch in the Congressional Directory? Should it not? If it should, then the Representative’s autobiography is improperly abbreviated, and History, when it gets ready to immortalize

the official “Socialist killers,” will have to draw upon Col. Mulhall’s confessions, or be woefully defective.

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