

The People.

VOL. IX.—NO. 48.

HENRY KUHN, NAT'L SEC'Y, S.L.P.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1900

PRICE 2 CENTS.

THIRD EDITORIAL

GUILTY!

By DANIEL DE LEON

The final affidavits of the *Volkszeitung* in the case that Section New York brought before the Attorney-General for the dissolution of the corporation may be summed up in the word “Guilty” and the confession is made all the more emphatic by the volume of words with which the attempt is made to cover up the ugly word.

The infamy of long withholding moneys collected for the Idaho miners, the padded appearance of the “assets,” these and several other charges are all proven by the very nature of the attempted denials; the charge of a sinking and now ridiculously small circulation (about 6,000)—so small as to convict the paper of the crime of raising money under false pretenses in the gathering of advertisements—this charge is proved by silence, with not the least attempt made to deny it. As far as this set of charges is concerned, the fact stands out clear that the *Volkszeitung* is an immoral concern, run for immoral purposes, whose connection with the Labor Movement of America could not too soon be severed.

But there was another set of charges throwing light upon another feature of the case, to wit, the charges showing that the *Volkszeitung* of right belongs to Section New York, S.L.P., but has been stolen from it. This charge was grounded on the history of the organization of the Publishing Association, and was stated in the preliminary affidavits of Section New York. The truthfulness of these affidavits was thereupon denied by the lager beer Anarchist, Justus Schwab, who, in his affidavit in rebuttal, gave what purported to be, of his own knowledge, the real history of the formation of the Publishing Association. In that affidavit a wholly different story was told, and the Publishing Association was represented as the property of its stockholders. Thereupon, Section New York staved in the head of the Anarchist affidavit with documentary proof, as published in THE PEOPLE of the 4th inst. In these, its closing affidavits, the *Volkszeitung* presents upon this point

the figure of a nailed toad. Its answer is to the effect that “it does not remember anything on the subject.”!!!

* * *

The Party press must be the Party’s property, absolutely and unqualifiedly, and guarded like the apple of its eye. The confiding laxness of the past must be and is at an end.

By the burning ruins of the *Volkszeitung*, a lesson of first magnitude is taught.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded May 2005