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EDITORIAL

TWO NUTS LEFT UNCRACKED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FOR a number of years *The People* has offered two nuts for the jaws of those to crack who would purge themselves of the title of “jaw-smiths,” and prove they have jaws to a purpose. The nuts remain uncracked.

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The first of the two nuts is this:—In what way can a political party of revolution (anti-capitalist, Socialist or Labor party) counteract the threat of the plutocratic-capitalist political party, if defeated at the polls, there will be a general shut-down?—in what way could a revolutionary political party counteract such a threat, and thereby prevent the voting proletariat from stampeding to a political foe, and giving it the election, for the sake of not starving between Election Day and Inauguration Day?—in what way could a revolutionary political party hold its forces unless its forces take the field equipped with an economic organization so integrally organized that they know they can counterstroke the reaction implied in the execution of the threat by themselves assuming the national control of the productive powers of the land?—in short, how can an anti-capitalist party triumph in America without it comes allied with the Industrial State ready to supplant the political, as the serpent casts off the old slough only when the new is ready, and seize the reins of Government?

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The second nut is like unto the first:—In what way can the integrally constructed and revolutionary economic or organization, so essential to the overthrow of Capitalism and the rise of the Socialist Republic, recruit its forces, unless it proclaim its revolutionary program in the open, and challenges its foe to meet it on the social battlefield of civilization, the hustings?—in short, how can the

Industrial State take shape and strengthen without it shields itself with the shield of a political party of Revolution?

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While the two sets of pure and simple—and as often impure and crooked—visionaries wear off their teeth upon the files of these two nuts, often breaking off into “magnetic” oratory that turns out to be “hypnotic”—while this double and supplementary farce proceeds, and very generally amid the plaudits of Capitalism;— while that goes on, the S.L.P. steadily holds the two nuts between the jaws of the two sets of jaw-smiths, and thus turns the two sets of gentry to the only use there is in them—the use of demonstrating by their impotence the soundness of S.L.P. principle, the rightness of the road that the S.L.P. unwaveringly points to.

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