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EDITORIAL

## A MISTAKE SOMEWHERE?

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**T does seem after all that “all the Socialists” are not going to be united at the Indianapolis Social Democratic love feast, due next month, into “one grand and glorious movement that will shake the country from center to circumference.” At least that is a safe inference to be drawn from the “event of events” in Kansas City, Mo., on the 19th instant. To the blare of trumpets, calling upon all the “forces that make for reform” in the land “to come together” and to organize “one grand and glorious party” that will “sweep the country in 1904,” a new party was launched on that day in Kansas City with the style and name of the “Allied Third Party.” The list of “forces” represented at the launching mentions “Single Taxers,” “Public Utility Party men,” “Imperative Mandate men,” “Anti-Monopolists,” “Graduated Income Tax Leaguers,” “Greenbackers,” “Home Rulers,”—and last, not least, “Socialists.” Now, it so happens that an equally long list of “forces,” marching “one abreast,” forms the menu promised to be dished up to the enraptured eye at Indianapolis, and the public has been confidently assured that “all the Socialists” were to be there. There must be a mistake somewhere.

Surely the varieties of “Socialists” that are to meet at Indianapolis and “this time surely” unite, harmonize and otherwise start the “grand and glorious movement,” etc., are numerous enough. At first blush these varieties leave the impression of covering all possible varieties of “Socialist forces:” There is the Prof. Kharas Necromancer variety of Socialist, there is the “Weeping Jim” or Armory variety of Socialist, there are the two sub-varieties of Capitalist Political Jobs-Snappers,—the San Francisco and the Cleveland types of Socialism, there is the Reverend variety of Socialist, there is the Kangaroo variety of Socialist, there is,—well, the list is too long to quote in full; long enough, as stated before, to confirm the impression that “they are all there.” Great, accordingly, must have been the surprise of the public to learn, together with the “event of events” in Kansas City, that the “Socialist contingent of forces” contributed its share to the timbre of the new political craft.

Again, we say, there must be a mistake somewhere. Either the Kansas City report is merely one of those “infamous S.L.P. lies,” that have the knack to set “Socialist Varieties” by the ear every time they seek to come together; or the much advertised Indianapolis unification of “all Socialists” is a base imposition attempted upon the political star-gazers and wool-gatherers of the land who, basing their expectations upon the promise of “the unification of all Socialist varieties,” have been living in pleasurable expectation of the apocalyptic days soon to be let loose upon the world, with Indianapolis as the starting point. Which of the two?

If a theory may be risked, it is in favor of the truthfulness of the Kansas City report; and that would mean that the Indianapolis Harmony Convention of Socialist Varieties has sprung a leak fully a month ahead of schedule time.

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