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EDITORIAL

REFRESHING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT has become so monotonous to see and hear every whippersnapper would-be reformer whom the Socialist Labor Party convicts of impudence, ignorance or ineptness, stand on his hindlegs, and declare that “the S.L.P. does not know it all,” that “the S.L.P. is not infallible,” that “the S.L.P. finds fault with everything,” and more of such puerile utterances, that it is positively refreshing to see the capitalist enemy’s camp split in two, and hear the identical charges flung at each other. A strong illustration in point is furnished by the Seattle (Wash.) *Post-Intelligencer*, a raw-boned Roosevelt “imperialist,” “expansionist,” and man-eaterist in general.

A school superintendent of Georgetown named Kingsbury is the occasion for the refreshing spectacle. Mr. Kingsbury is of the opinion that “the teacher who sends the child out into life deeply imbued with a type of patriotism bolstered by the view that the present government of the United States is an expression of the same principle{s} that were voiced in the Declaration of Independence, whether the teacher knows it or not, he has been teaching a lie;” and Mr. Kingsbury has boldly given utterance to his views.

Of course the Declaration of Independence is sufficient of an annoyance to people who realize that expansion and imperialism is a direct violation of the principle that governments are to be “with the consent of the governed.” But the annoyance becomes a positive thorn in their flesh when stirred in manner that Mr. Kingsbury does. Can he not keep quiet and let our rulers serve the devil in God’s livery? He does not choose to keep quiet. And thereupon after snarling at him the *Post-Intelligencer* turns its face eastward, reaches its long arm clean across the continent, and grabbing by the neck the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* and the New York *Evening Post*—two capitalist papers that are of the opinion that it is

unwise to accentuate by “expansion” the violation of the Declaration of Independence as practised upon the working class at home—the *Post-Intelligencer* reads them a lecture. Its mildest term applied to these papers is that their sole “purpose in life is to spread abroad the idea that everything which this country does is necessarily wrong.”

Has not that sentence a familiar ring? Every convicted labor fakir and his helper declares that “the S.L.P. claims that everything the unions do is wrong,” every convicted crook in the movement declares that “the S.L.P. calls everybody a crook.” And so forth. It is refreshing, indeed, to see our foes giving each other a dose of their own medicine.

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

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