

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 294.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

{“A.M. SIMONS, EDITOR.”}

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**A**. M. SIMONS, EDITOR” has played us a scurvy trick. We knew he was exploding, fit to snap all his buttons. A birdy told us, and we made all arrangements in advance to publish his this month’s explosion under another “Explosion—More to Come.” And now comes his *Review*, and dashes our plans. A pintful of an explosion, even a gallon, *The People* could stand, and our readers would enjoy—but a whole hogshheadful! That’s too much of a good thing. A little fun is permissible. But to reproduce the gentleman in the full five wide, long and closely printed pages of his prodigious *Review* to which he unanimously elected himself “Editor,” and over which five expanses of pages he tears wildly about like a demented demijohn—that we would not do. It would crowd out less ludicrously amusing, but much important matter.

Nevertheless, we cannot forego the sport of taking “A.M. Simons, Editor’s” head in chancery, and disporting our knuckles upon his nose for just a minute. The gentleman charges De Leon with the “falsehood” of stating that “the German Social Democratic Unions have continuously fought the Hirsch-Dunker unions,” etc. The only falsehood in the matter is the assertion, as made by “A.M. Simons, Editor.” We would ask him to produce the passage. But we shall abstain. Once before, a little over five years ago, when, in another fit of mendacity and lunacy, the gentleman fabricated against us the charge that we issued a secret circular against his important self, we called upon him to produce the document; to this day there has been no response. We shall not harass the already sufficiently perturbed gentleman again with such annoying demands as to substantiate his allegations.

The People never said that the fight against the Hirsch-Dunker concerns continues. What *The People* did say is that when the Hirsch-Dunker concerns started, more than a generation ago, they were attacked, often with clubs, by the

Social Democrats, and their meetings smashed more than once. The spread of the Hirsch-Dunker Unions was thus effectively checked; they were crippled, and the Social Democracy grew amain; there has been no occasion since to fight them. Of course, the wide-read "A.M. Simons, Editor" has not seen any evidence of these fights during "the nearly ten years," during which he has been "a fairly close reader" of the German Socialist press. He has no further depth of information than that—10 years! As well might he deny that the Americans pommeled the British in 1777, on the ground that "for ten years he has been a fairly close reader of British and American papers," and in none does he find anything but mutual loveliness. That is a "A.M. Simons, Editor's" intellectual level. Even Bohn is misrepresented; although his article appears in the same issue of the *Review*. If Bohn's words, that those concerns were "smashed," are taken to mean that they were annihilated, then Bohn errs, but he could not be charged with claiming, as "A.M. Simons, Editor" charges him with doing, that the fight continues. Nowhere outside of Timbooctoo do people "continuously fight" a thing that is "smashed." Moreover Bohn can only have meant that there was "smashing" done, and so there was—in days that "A.M. Simons, Editor," is too shallow to know anything about.

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

Uploaded December 2007

slpns@slp.org