

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 254.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE IRREPRESSIBLE ARMORY MEASURE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“S EVERAL members of Union 11, New Haven,” is the signature attached to a letter that appears in the *Bakers' Journal* of the 7th instant, and that, aiming at exculpating the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democracy, from the serious charges made against it, contains this passage:

“In regard to Comrade Carey voting for an Armory measure, he, Carey, was a member of the Socialist Labor Party at the time of the act.... It is a notable fact that the S.L.P. had no fault to find until after he had broken away from their party.”

James T. Carey was elected a Councilman in Haverhill, Mass., on December 8, 1897. He was the nominee of the Socialist Labor Party, of which he then was a member. As such Mr. Carey was compelled to and did sign his resignation, dated blank, of the office for which he was nominated, and the resignation was placed in the hands of Section Haverhill, S.L.P., as custodian for the Party.

On Wednesday evening, February 17, 1898 (a little after two months after his election), Mr. Carey succeeded in causing his section to secede from the S.L.P. This was the culmination of an intrigue he had long been conducting.

On March 7, 1898, the National Executive Committee of the S.L.P., correctly scenting premonitions of treason to the Working Class by such an action on the part of a Party member just elected to public office, and being, as the executive body of the Party, in constructive possession of Mr. Carey's resignation of his office, as the constitution required, wrote to Mr. Carey demanding his resignation. In that letter the following passage occurs:

“In view of the violation of the pledge contained in that document [the

resignation, which pledges a candidate “in case of his election to stand squarely on the Party’s platform and to advocate its principles”], and in view of the fact that the office you now hold is Party property, and that the Party will be held responsible for the improprieties that your conduct makes certain you will incur, we hereby summon you to resign from the office of Councilman, which you now hold, and thus surrender to the Party you have betrayed the trust conferred upon you.”

The letter was sent by registered mail, was received by Mr. Carey and was returned by him in another envelope. He kept his office.

On Thursday, June 16, 1898 (nearly four months after his secession from the Party, and over three months after the S.L.P., by the letter quoted above, had prophetically cleaned its skirts of the man) Mr. Carey voted for the Armory Measure, a \$15,000 appropriation.

That much for the exculpation of the “Several Members of Union 11, New Haven.” But that’s not all. If it were all, it would not be worth mentioning. The facts are all thoroughly known. But there’s more to the point.

In its issue of the 9th instant, the *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, a German organ of Mr. Carey’s party, answering a Utica, N.Y., correspondent on this same irrepressible Armory matter, after insinuating the same lie that the “Several Members of Union 11, New Haven” indulged in, proceeds this wise:

“Moreover, the matter of the militia being an organization hostile to the workingmen, did not then occupy the stage.”

So, then, the invasion of Brooklyn by the militia to break the trolley men’s strike in 1895; the invasion of Buffalo by the militia to break the switchmen’s strike in 1892; the invasion of Homestead by the militia to break the iron and steelworkers’ strike that same year; the invasion of Chicago by the Illinois militia, vying with the Federal military to break the railroad strike in 1894; the innumerable outrages committed against workingmen on strike by the militias of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, California, New Jersey, in fact by the militia of every industrial State;—all these horrors, which happened before Mr. Carey’s Armory record in 1898, “did not occupy the stage”!!!

What does all this music mean? This attempted palliation of militia outrages? This

pick-pocket's attempt to foist into an innocent man's pocket the stolen goods that he is caught with?

Wrongful acts, implying no moral turpitude, can ever be cleared off: they are subject to open confession and contrition. Otherwise with acts that imply moral turpitude: the moral turpitude of the act cannot be got rid of. Moral turpitude is so wholly a part of the committer and his kin that it breeds further turpitude. A fresh turpitudinous act is inevitably ever resorted to in the endeavor to conceal or escape the effects of the first,—and therein lies a beneficent dispensation of Providence: rottenness scourges itself.

The vote of James T. Carey, the Social Democrat, for a \$15,000 appropriation to improve the Armory in industrial Haverhill was a long premeditated act of foul corruption and of unfathomable treason to the Working Class. How foul the corruption, how unfathomable the treason may be gathered from the double circumstance that the deed will not down, and that it ever drives its supporters into the swirl of additional infamy that the *Volkszeitung* and the "Several Members of Union 11, New Haven" are found to be floundering in.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded November 2006