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EDITORIAL

THE INDECENCY OF MUDDLEHEADISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

COMMENTING upon a series of articles published in its columns and written by the Presidential candidates of the “minor political parties,” the *Independent* has this to say about the article of the Socialist Labor Party’s candidate:

“All in all, however, these articles are models of frankness, at times even approaching indecency of mental exposure, as when Mr. Corregan acknowledges that the workingmen of the Socialist Labor Party ‘seek control of the political powers in order to administer the affairs of the Government in the interest of their class.’ We like Mr. Corregan’s truthfulness, but we deplore the fact that he discloses, for we should like to see the workingmen and their candidate set an example of high thinking at a time when a President of the United States, momentarily forgetting that he is the official head of the nation and the representative of a whole people, has allowed himself to speak of half of that people as ‘our opponents.’”

Whatever “indecency” there is in the premises it is all with the *Independent*. Huxley well remarked that the height of immorality was to accept the unprovable. Few things are as indecent as muddleheadism.

When the President of the United States speaks of half the people as his opponents, what he has done is but to yield to a truthful impulse. True enough, uttered in his words, the truthfulness of the impulse is somewhat perverted, yet the impulse remains true. The truth to which Mr. Roosevelt unwittingly gave vent is the fact that he, a representative of the capitalist class, necessarily was a foe to the working class. Every capitalist knows that; every politician is thoroughly aware of the fact. It was a case of the truth breaking bonds and rushing out. That he should have aimed directly at the Democratic faction of the capitalist class, and therefore erred, does not detract from the truth itself that rose from his heart to his thoughts

and then trickled through his pen.

The capitalist class seeks to keep the control of the political power in order to administer the affairs of the Government in the interest of their class. Their class is an exploiting class. It follows that the administration of the affairs of the Government in the interest of the capitalist class is bound to perpetuate the rupture of the people into classes—an exploited and an exploiting one. On the other hand, the interest of the working class is to abolish the classes. The administration of the political power in the interest of the working class is, consequently, an act reflective of the preeminently moral aspiration of the Socialist Labor Party. Only such administration of the public powers will stop the internal social horrors that inevitably bring such external horrors as the present Manchurian campaign, or our butchery of the Filipinos.

Decency demands truthfulness. Untruthfulness is indecent, and so is muddleheadedness.

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

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