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EDITORIAL

PRESTON AS STANDARD BEARER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN the measure that a candidate finds reproduced against him the assaults made against the principles of the party whose standard bearer he is, in that measure may the candidate be satisfied that he is true to his colors, and the party that nominated him feel gratified that it made no mistake.

Preston, for whom Gillhaus bears the standard as proxy, is making the experience that Socialism made.

Socialism has been assailed, and still continues to be assailed, as a criminal conspiracy against all that is sacred to man. Socialism—the first practical move to make possible the aspirations of all noble souls of antiquity, the first practical groundwork presented to render “peace on earth, good will among men” a reality and not the evanescent hypocrisy-producing vision it has hitherto been—Socialism has been and continues to be reviled as a breeder of strife, a threat to life.—Like Socialism, Preston is assailed with the charge of murder—he, the man of peace, who, peacefully engaged in the exercise of a civic right, is murderously assaulted, and in defense of his life slays his assailant, as any man would slay a mad dog that rushes at him—him the mad-dog class affects to point the finger of scorn at!

Socialism, the only serious proposition for the orderly regulation of man’s affairs with man, and, consequently, for the abolition of war—Socialism has been and is continued to be ranted against as a disturber of the public peace.—Like Socialism, Preston, the Socialist Labor Party man who strained every nerve to bring order and civilized conditions in the capitalist-run mining camp of Goldfield—Preston is ranted against as a “rioter.”

Socialism, the condemner of the capitalist iniquities heaped upon woman, and the sole haven of refuge for the mothers, wives and daughters of the race—Socialism is and has been mouthed against as a “blaster of the family.”—Like

Socialism, Preston, who made front to a scamp employer and maltreater of women—upon Preston is heaped the infamous calumny of being a “family disrupter.”

The parallel could be continued indefinitely.

The lot of Socialism is the lot of its standard bearer in this campaign. Both will beat themselves through. When their present assailants shall have vanished from memory, or be remembered in history only as hideous dreams, they will shed their luster upon the race.

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

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slpns@slp.org