

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 9, NO. 255.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT should not be necessary to add aught to the few terse sentences, that introduce the Petition issued by the Pouden Defence Conference for the abrogation of the Russian extradition treaty, in order to enlist the sympathy, co-operation and hearty support of all right-minded people.

Not infrequently the charge is heard against Socialism that it raises a barrier between its devotees and the rest of the population, rendering them quasi aliens to the non-Socialist mass. The charge is incorrect. Socialism, not being Anarchy, does not proceed upon a theory that renders the striven-for Socialist Commonwealth akin to an aerolite dropped from the skies. Socialism is a link in social evolution. How incorrect the charge, and how truly Socialism connects with the past and the present—the best of the past and the present that Socialism is the issue of, becomes manifest from the posture of the honorably alert people of the land.

Both Federal and State Constitutions guarantee to the citizen “a speedy trial” in cases of arrest.

The Russian Government, planted upon the existing treaty of extradition, is verifying one and all the apprehensions entertained by those who, familiar with Moscovite methods, rang the note of warning, a note not heeded at the time the treaty was proposed. Russian refugees are arrested in America—and then?—and then the Government of the Czar proceeds with snail-foot leisure to “secure the proofs,” while its victim languishes in prison.

The worst abuse of power that Magna Charta is glorious for having smitten, and that the smoldering embers of the torn-down Bastille once more attested that human progress would not brook—that abuse the Russian treaty of extradition is allowing in is now allowing in our country.

The Russian extradition treaty is an insult, it is a menace to a great

achievement of onward and upward moving Civilization.

Whether Republican, or Democrat or Socialist—whether free trade, protectionist, or anti-wage slavery—as a people, standing upon the elevation of Twentieth Century Civilization—we all prize dearly the conquests made by Progress. Upon that ground stand we all. From that ground do we all proceed. United we all rush to the defence of common patrimony in loudly demanding—

THE ABROGATION OF THE RUSSIAN TREATY OF EXTRADITION.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded July 2010

slpns@slp.org