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EDITORIAL

A WATERLOO.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Last week a hurried report was published of the suit that had just been won from the Volkszeitung Corporation. A few details are not out of place, all the more seeing that for the last eleven months, the corporation has figured as a cat's paw of Reaction and Corruption whereby the Socialist Labor Party was to be smashed.

As stated last week, in the course of time, about \$1,200 of the Daily People Fund happened to get into a bank under the external appearance of property belonging to the Corporation. When the clash of last July 10 came, the Corporation put an embargo on the funds against the Daily People Committee. To recover this sum, thus attempted to be stolen by the Corporation, suit was brought against it by the Daily People Committee.

The six days' trial brought out a remarkable spectacle. The Party's case was proven mainly by the books of the Corporation itself. It was summoned to produce these books. It dodged; brought in irrelevant books; pretended not to "know;" but was finally landed. Its books furnished facts that dove-tailed exactly with those of the Daily People Committee, and proved beyond doubt that the moneys were not the Corporation's, but were property of the Socialist Labor Party through its publishing agency, the Daily People Committee.

If a cage-full of baboons, imported straight from Timbooctoo, had been placed on the witness stand they would not have presented a sorrier or more laughable spectacle than did the pack of witnesses for the Corporation: The utter absence of their sense of truth; the utter silliness of the "points" they tried to score; their incapacity,—moral, intellectual, and physical flabbiness excited mirth and pity at once. With them on one side, the Party's witnesses on the other, it was a pictorial representation of the lines on which the "split" occurred.

The very nature of the suit brought out, somehow, all the several points upon which turn all the other suits yet pending. Judgment was given for the Party's side

without the judge leaving the bench. When on the sixth day both sides closed, the judgment followed as a flash. Hence this suit is a veritable Waterloo for the Corporation. It virtually settles all the others. Nothing remains, as to them, but to go through the form of giving testimony and securing judgment for the Party. Only two weeks before, the corporation had to pay the Party \$235 costs through an appeal won against the *Volkszeitung* crew. Besides the big amount involved in this last action, the costs will be big. No wonder the *Volkszeitung* is absolutely silent on the subject, and tries to keep its dupes in ignorance of the catastrophe. That much has trickled through its thick Timbuctoo wool, to wit, that it is beaten hollow, horse, foot and dragoon, and knocked out of sight. These are not the days of ten years ago!

This spectacle, presented by a would-be S.L.P. killer, and accordingly, by a limb of the capitalist Beast of Property, is but symbolic and prophetic of what is in store for capitalism itself at the hand of the fighting S.L.P.

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

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