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EDITORIAL

SHAMING A SOCIALIST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AMONG the men who are figuring prominently in the Socialist party is Mr. Robert Hunter. This gentleman has written a thick book—about 400 pages long—entitled *Poverty*. On page 314 of the said work this passage occurs:

“Immigration, therefore, means that, by permitting free and unlimited entry, we are stimulating the birthrate both in this country and abroad, of Italians, Hungarians, Lithuanians, Ruthenians, Croatians, and Polish, Roumanian and Russian Jews. This increase means that the places of those who emigrate to this country are filled in a generation and the misery and oppression, which emigration is supposed to relieve, continue unimproved, while in the United States the peasantry from other countries, degraded by foreign oppression, are supplanting the descendants of the original stock of this country. This is the race-suicide, the annihilation of our native stock, which unlimited immigration forces upon us, none the less powerfully because it is gradually and stealthily done. The native stock of America, possessed of rare advantages, freed by its own efforts from oppression and the miseries of oppression, might have peopled the United States with the seventy millions which now inhabit it. It has not done so for the reason that ‘we cannot welcome an indefinite number of immigrants to our shores without forbidding the existence of an indefinite number of children of native parents who might have been born.’”

Leaving for a later occasion the consideration of some of the amazing principles thus advanced by Mr. Hunter on the great and burning question of immigration, together with what flows therefrom, the gentleman’s general reasoning may be boiled down to this: “The cause of the decreasing birth-rate of the ‘native stock of America’, which was ‘possessed of rare advantages’ and ‘freed by its own efforts from oppression and the miseries of oppression’ is that hordes of Italians, Polish, Russian and Roumanian Jews, Hungarians, Irish, Germans, Swedes, etc., flocked into the country.”—This is the view held by one who calls himself a Socialist; one, therefore, presumably grounded in the material facts that ever must be the

foundation for Socialist thought.

Now let us turn to another source—a capitalist source—no less vitriolic a capitalist source than the New York *Evening Post*. In its issue of July 31 that paper has this to say:

“With the decreasing birth-rate of the native-born population in the older sections of the country, we may yet find in these strong stocks of the Old World a very real element in our national strength.”—This is the view held by one who repudiates Socialism, yet feels compelled to render homage to the Socialist method of thought of standing upon facts and clearly distinguishing between cause and effect.

The Jingoic heels over headedness of Mr. Robert Hunter, a reputed Socialist, stands shamed. When an anti-Socialist shames a Socialist, the shamed Socialist is a shame to Socialism.

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