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EDITORIAL

A STRAY-LIGHT ON IMMIGRATION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

LAST week the grotesque reasoning was exposed to which the Jingo instinct of Mr. Robert Hunter led the gentleman when he attributed the decreasing birthrate of the native stock to the floods of European immigrants. An even more serious assault upon Socialist thought is embodied in Mr. Hunter's claim that, but for the unlimited immigration of Polish, Roumanian and Russian Jews, Italians, Hungarians, Irish, Germans, etc., etc., the native stock of America "might have peopled the United States with the seventy millions which now inhabit it."

We do not know what Mr. Hunter's extraction is. Assuming him to be of the "native stock," then, had immigration been wholly excluded, and the original 3,000,000 "native stock" been left to populate this country all to themselves, Mr. Hunter's ideal—then, instead of Mr. Hunter being the physically and mentally attractive gentleman that he is, he would be one of the seventy millions of dribbling idiots who would by this time constitute the land's population. The extent to which inbreeding would have had to be carried on, for that 3,000,000 to breed 70,000,000 in about a hundred years, renders doubtful whether the 70,000,000 would be at all above the mental and physical condition of Yahoos, incapable of self-maintenance as a nation.

But there is worse than a biological conception at war with Socialist fact in Mr. Hunter's theory. His theory is at war with sociology and ethnology themselves.

The "native stock" of America tried and, fortunately for this country, failed in the identical attempt which the native stock of South America also tried but, unfortunately for their countries, succeeded in—the keeping out of immigration. Since the days of Tacitus the principle was discovered that that State is fit for empire that is liberal to the immigrant. All subsequent experience has since confirmed the principle. It is no accident that the identical Lincoln who issued the

emancipation proclamation, also sent to Congress the luminous messages that urged the legislature to oil the hinges of the nation's gates to the immigrant, and, when arrived, endow him bountifully. What South America is to-day, that would this country be if the "hordes from Europe" had not rushed in.

Socialism, the great ocean into which flow all the intellectual conquests of the human race, knows but **one** race—the **Socialist race**; it knows but **one** creed—the **Socialist creed**; it knows but **one** nationality—the **Socialist nationality**. To naturalize all the world in, and raise its peoples to, the dignity of that nationality, race and creed is the sublime mission of the Socialist Movement. The mission is sublime because its aspiration is planted upon fact, not upon sentiment—that most dangerous of foundations, which lead to one of two extremes: either altruistic helplessness, or Robert Hunter self-centered petrification.

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