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EDITORIAL

WHERE VOTES COUNT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE “reform” forces just now present the spectacle of a demoralized, irresponsible, purposeless, vicious mob. Tammany, though dissolution has set in to some extent, presents the spectacle of an organized, compact, well-drilled army, bent upon using every force at its command for self-enrichment, perverting the municipal wealth to private purposes and bent upon controlling the power that gives them access to that wealth. The “reform” forces differ from the Tammany forces only in the fact that the great cohesive and binding force of spoils is lacking. There is no patronage to hold the rank and file. There is not the overflowing purse that persuades men to work. The only thing that is of any moment at all is the hope that those who have may be ousted, and the good things of the city be opened to those who now have nothing.

The senseless scurrying around to fix on a candidate is an indication of this. The man and not the principle is the great thing. The man need not be a good man, he need not be an intelligent man, but he must be popular. He must have the ability to draw votes. That is the only point that has come out during the whole discussion. The fact that he must be a capitalist of capitalists goes without saying.

The workingman who understands his own interests will not be misled by this clatter and clamor. In this municipal campaign as in all previous campaigns, the man who knows why he votes knows that he goes to the polls for the purpose of benefiting himself. He knows that his interests are involved in an election, and that the control of every office is necessary to safeguard and protect those interests.

The Socialist Labor Party stands opposed to all other parties because its single object is the welfare of the working class. For that reason it should receive the support of the working class. It has against it the combined numbers of the Democratic, Republican, Social Democratic, etc., parties. But it has with it the working class. It grounds itself upon the inevitable. It builds slowly but surely, and what it builds cannot be shaken down because it is the sole hope of humanity.

Much can be overlooked in the heat of a campaign, and it is the invariable custom of capitalist parties to blind the voters to the greatest possible extent. As all their promises in the past have proven false, as the working class has sunk to a lower level than ever before, and as there is a growing understanding of the fact that the level will be still lower, this year the success of the blinding process will be smaller than ever.

Every worker should join the Socialist Labor Party, assist it, and on election day cast his ballot for the ticket headed by Benjamin F. Keinar.

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