

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 133.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1912.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

## THE DEBS VOTE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**E**VEN if the fractional mention made in press despatches of the vote polled by Eugene V. Debs for President be discounted, and allowance made for newspaper hysterics, it is safe to say that the Debs vote will be close to twice as large as it was four years ago—possibly even larger.

Without retracting a word from the criticisms *The People* has made of the Socialist party—its baroque platform, enough to make Socialism sigh; the laxity of its organization, a serious menace to Socialism, which requires unity in essentials: its untenable posture on the Union Question, a still more serious menace to the working class—without retracting a word from our criticisms, well may the Socialist Labor Party rejoice at the Debs Vote.

It is not simply that his vote has increased markedly; perhaps doubled; perhaps more than doubled. The redeeming feature, THE feature of the Debs vote of 1912 is the conditions under which that vote was polled.

Just because the Socialist party's platform is so closely related to the Roosevelt party's in point of fly-paper attractiveness—for that very reason every Socialist should rejoice in a poll that indicates increasing discrimination, and increasingly decided preference for Socialism, despite all lures to the right and to the left, and however defective that poll's conception of Socialism may yet be.

Time was when the fly-paper of a Roosevelt program would have attracted to itself all the social discontent in the land. That time is no more. That that time is no more, the huge increase of the Debs poll amply, emphatically, gratifyingly attests to.

There was not in the Roosevelt program the dangerous economic fallacy that was imbedded in the Bryan program of 1896, and that gave the plutocracy a powerful handle to neutralize the Bryan appeals to Discontent. Even the Caesarism in

Roosevelt was calculated to render it all the more attractive to Unthinking Discontent. Twenty years ago, Roosevelt would have swept the field. He did not this year of grace. This year of grace reveals the fact that agitation and education for Socialism has redeemed hundreds of thousands. The Debs vote brings the cheering fact most prominently to view.

It matters not what others may think upon the matter, we know that Socialist Labor Party education has contributed mightily towards the showing that Debs has just made. Unnecessary here to mention the social reasons why, as yet, the principles of the S.L.P. can not gather under the Party's own banner the full crop of votes that belong to it—unnecessary. The fact is all that requires mention. Unable, as yet, to make the fullest of demonstrations itself, the Socialist Labor Party, without an atom of enviousness, applauds the manifestation of the Debs Vote—nor will any well posted, thinking and upright man deny to the S.L.P. the right to a share in the glory of the Debs Vote, in so far as the Debs Vote is a tangible manifestation of the country's having left behind it the time when Discontent was simply and unqualifiedly food for the cannon of capitalist politics.

That discontent is increasingly calling itself "Socialist." It is for the Socialists to make it also increasingly Socialist.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded April 2014

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)