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FIRST EDITORIAL

FIFTH KICK-OUT.

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It will be of more than passing interest to the comrades and friends, and to all those who have at heart the forming and progress of a bona fide political party of the working class in the land, to know that the New York combination of tax paying small traders in Bermuda potatoes, lager beer and Egyptian onions, usurious money lenders, labor fakirs, business “Socialists,” and European aliases, collectively known as the “Kangaroo party,” has made a fifth attempt to steal the name of the Socialist Labor Party—and has just been again kicked out of court.

It happened this way:

The appellate division of the Supreme Court, as recently announced in these columns, sat down upon the fourth attempt of these gentlemen, on the ground that, the election having been held, the issues in the controversy were settled. This eminently wise decision was arrived at, no doubt, by the light of that imposing demonstration held last election day in this state when the Party polled a larger vote than ever before; the decision was also, no doubt, aided by the light which fell upon the Kangaroo claimants from thirty-five of their own affidavits, which, the record revealed, were false, inasmuch as they pretended to verify an affidavit that did not exist.

Thrown out that fourth time, the gentlemen tried to get a rehearing from that same Court. The attempt was made by another affidavit. This affidavit was a beauty. It set out that the court erred in considering the issues in the controversy settled, because (as a proof that these issues were not settled), from top to bottom, the Socialist Labor Party had two distinct sets of organizations, national, state and local. The Party's affidavit, that let the wind out of that bag, was simple and neat, as simple and neat as a good, strong steel needle. It reproduced one of the numerous placards that the kangaroos flooded the city with last campaign, and that their organs reproduced, bearing this heading:

SOCIALISTS, DON'T VOTE!

REPUDIATE THE TAMMANY-REPUBLICAN
POLICE BOARD CANDIDATES
ON THE BALLOT UNDER THE NAME OF THE
SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

The affidavit showed that such placards and publications had made perfectly clear that the applicants and the Socialist Labor Party were wholly distinct; and that the increased vote polled by the Party under such circumstances disposed of all pretences about there being “from top to bottom two distinct sets of S.L.P. organizations, national, state and local.” (The placard above quoted was too grandiose not to rescue from total oblivion. During the campaign, Section New York secured a stack of them. Every delegate to the approaching National Convention will be supplied with two copies, one for himself, and one for his section, to be kept as mementos. In sight of this fifth kick-out, the document has gathered increased memento qualities.) The Party’s affidavit then proceeded to show that the official acts of the claimants themselves betrayed the fact that they recognized that the late election figures, following smack upon their placards, had settled the issues in the controversy. This point was clinched by producing the resolutions adopted by the claimants at their recent Rochester pow-wow, whereby a Committee of Nine was appointed with power to change their party’s name, yank off its “national candidates,” alter its platform and walk into another, the Debs party. With the Party’s proverbial wickedness and love of “billingsgate,” it clinched this last point by picking and holding up the fact that the claimant’s attorney, who swore the affidavit and made the motion for the rehearing, “Morris Hilquit, Esq.,” himself is one of that tell-tale Committee of Nine, and had accepted the office. In short, that they were routed, were on the run, and knew it.

As already stated, this fifth attempt to thwart the fiat of the Party’s referendum, taken within the Party itself, and to thwart that still more imposing referendum held last election day, both of which spewed out the kangaroos and emphatically ordered the Party’s colors to remain in the Party’s hands, failed, as it could not choose but fail. The kangaroos got kicked out a fifth time.

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