

EDITORIAL

“VOTES” AS ARGUMENT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ANOTHER fact which the waves of the late elections have washed upon the shores of Time, and which is now sufficiently clear to warrant deductions{,} is that the Socialist party vote has broken in two. In 1904 it was 400,000; this year it may not reach half the number. In New York and Massachusetts, in Ohio, Illinois and other states, the tumble was headlong; even in Wisconsin, the “advance” consisted in standing still with a perceptible lurch backward. What becomes of the one and only, the “crushing” argument of “Votes”?

Until now, it mattered not what argument was presented to the pure and simple Socialist party politician to prove to him the unsoundness of his position, the answer always was: “Look at our rising vote!” The answer was considered a settler; it was supposed to “cure all defects.”

Was the S.P. pure and simple politician told: “Suppose you do poll the necessary vote to capture the political powers, how do you expect to have that vote counted, if you do not drill and organize the Might with which to safeguard the counting?”—The answer was: “Look at our rising vote!”

Was the S.P. man told: “A party of Revolution must be a party of men. Men cannot be reared in an organization that hides information from its membership; that builds upon whispered slander; whose press is retained by Civic Federation labor-lieutenants, and can with impunity call dissenters “Gobio Jersienses” and “Lobsters,” etc.,—the answer was: “Look at our rising vote!”

Was the S.P. pure and simple politician told: “‘Neutrality’ is a folly, where it is not a fraud. The economic movement of Labor is part and parcel of the Socialist Movement. The political movement cannot ignore the economic, because the economic will not ignore it. The success of the political is inconceivable without the class-conscious Union. You claim ‘Neutrality’ yet you act obedient to the dictates of

the A.F. of L. in the economic field,”—the answer was: “Look at our rising vote!”

Was the S.P. man told: “A party of Revolution must sink if it tolerates reaction. Caryism and Chaseism in Massachusetts, Morris Eichmannism in New Jersey, Hillquitism in New York, Berger-Buechism in Milwaukee, reaction, cowardice and corruption everywhere are not compatible with Socialism,”—the answer was: “Look at our rising vote!”

Was the S.P. politician told: “Immediate demands’ only train recruits for Hearstic bourgeois radical parties, never for the Social Revolution,”—the answer was: “Look at our rising vote!”

The “rising vote” has become a “sinking vote.” If a “rising vote” can cure defects, then the defects are exposed as incurable when the vote sinks. Stripped of its “rising vote” as the sole argument expected to cover its multitudinous sins, the pure and simple political Socialist party is stripped of its only apology for existing.

A party of Socialism has no reason of being unless it is uncompromisingly revolutionary—with all that that implies.

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