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EDITORIAL

FOUR! FOUR! FOUR MORE YEARS OF TEDDY!

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THIS office is not in the confidence of the powers that be. It can draw its conclusions only from the facts ascertained, and ascertainable. Following, with regard to the present moves of the powers that be, that reasoning that has guided it in the moves of the Socialist or Labor Movement, and which bids follow the unerring logic of concluding that between the ears of a rat and the tail of a rat there can be a rat only, this office says—Four! Four! Four more years of Teddy!

In this instance, it is not the ears and the tail of a rat that are the starting points. It is the well-polished fangs and claws of the tiger.

The Democratic party is at its old game, the game of seeing events only after they have happened. It pursues the wild will-o'-the-wisp notion that the issue that is up presents a "reconcilable" problem. Nothing will convince the Old Dame of her error until the card-board house of her illusions will have come crashing down over her long ears. In the meantime, as she pursues her illusions, the fantastic figures of Bryan and Hearst rise before her and may yet crystallize into her Presidential ticket.

The Republican party, being an up-to-the-hilt class conscious party of capitalism, has, it is true, all the vices, but also all the virtues of such. The virtues of capitalism to-day consist in fulfilling its two only remaining missions—one is to demonstrate that its rule has reached the point when its latent despotism is full-blown, and the second to keep order in society until the proletariat shall have ceased wool-gathering, and shall have organized itself in shape to take over the reins of government. Driven by these its virtues the most typical exposition of capitalism to-day is the present incumbent in the White House. He typifies capitalism in person, in mentality and in every other respect. No Democratic party clap-trap for him. Even the Czar of Russia talks of his love and affection for his

people and of the necessity of “wise laws for their regulation.” Roosevelt’s posture is identical. His proposed reforms in the laws are of the Czar’s nature. No wonder the heart of his “people” goes out to him. No wonder straw votes are indicating that he is the man wanted, and no Tafts or Hughes make-shifts.

’Tis pity, and ’tis true, and pity ’tis ’tis true that the present shape of the proletariat is such that, as yet, it is not in condition to rise in all its majesty, and take the reins of government. The next best thing for all those, who are clear enough on the situation, to do is to let the Democratic Old Dame try her conclusions with the Republican despot, and themselves, in the meantime, rally around the banner of the Socialist Labor Party—the only class-conscious political expression of the proletariat, and there record their protest.

The logic of events will settle the rest—with the result that there will be four more years of the Teddy poultice, which may bring things to a head in the next four years, with the S.L.P. in the van, as it has hitherto been.

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

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