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EDITORIAL

LOG CABIN AND BANDANAS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Roosevelt party has adopted an emblem—the bandana. The emblem is to typify the “common people”; presumably the element that is gathering around the T.R. banner.

Which reminds us—

When, in the forties, William Henry Harrison was nominated for President, the country was going through its earliest nation-wide social-economic convulsion. Martin Van Buren was the opposite candidate, and he was supposed to represent the then “plutocracy,” at the time named by its foes, and by not a few of their own friends, the “Aristocracy.” Harrison was set up as the exact opposite of Van Buren, and the Harrisonites gloried in not being Van Burenites. On the side of the Harrisonites the campaign meetings were a succession of spectacular gatherings, full of emblems, and emblematic action.

In order to contrast the “luxurious mansions in which the Van Burenites lolled” with the rough homes of the Harrisonites, these carried log-cabins along to their campaign rallies.

In order to contrast the luxurious viands that the Van Burenites feasted upon with the plain food of the Harrisonites, these carried to their campaign gatherings large bowls of baked beans, and frequently emphasized their poverty, in contrast to the costly plate of the Van Burenites, by eating with their hands.

In order to contrast the exquisiteness of the potations with which the Van Burenites washed down their expensive viands, the Harrisonites carried demijohns of hard cider—the common drink of the land—to their agitation meetings.

The Harrison campaign became known in history as “the log-cabin and hard cider campaign.” The Roosevelt campaign will similarly and probably become known as the “bandana campaign.”

Harrison triumphed. Will Roosevelt? It very much looks like an instance of history repeating itself—first as tragedy or drama, and then as a farce, or opera bouffe.

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