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EDITORIAL

WELL FOR THE DULUTH S.P.!

By DANIEL DE LEON

WITH joy the *Daily People* records the fact that it is not all political rottenness in the Socialist party. The exceptional spot brought to our attention is in Duluth, Minn.

At the recent (February 6) municipal elections in the town, and the S.P. having a full ticket in the field, two of the local papers, *The Labor World*, an A.F. of L. craft Union paper, owned and issued by the Secretary of the State Federation, and *The Weekly Record*, a reform publication, issued by a set of lawyers, and, of course, of political debauchery proclivities, came out in support of three of the S.P. candidates.

The integrity of the S.P. organization was thus brought to the touch. Was the Duluth organization of the nature of the Ashtabula and so many other S.P. bodies, that are ready to break, not one, but all their four legs, the neck of Socialism included, for votes and jobs?

In honor of the truth—No.

Promptly the Duluth S.P. organization issued a printed and pointed notice reading the riot act to both *The Labor World* and *The Weekly Record*. It declined to accept the endorsement of either on the ground of their non-acceptance of the irrepressible conflict between the Capitalist and the Working Class; it repudiated as vicious the theory of “Good Men” above principle; it denied the existence of a middle or common ground between Socialism and Capitalism; it boldly flung to the breeze the motto, “He who is not all with us is against us.”

This was well; and, the Duluth S.P. having done its part to perfection, the Genius of the Age speedily came to its aid at the hustings—one of its candidates was elected, and he, we are credibly informed, was the only one who opposed the issuance of the statement repudiating the political log-rollers’ endorsement. The Duluth S.P. local now knows which is the weak link in its armor—a priceless thing to know in time.

The questions now come:—

How can the Duluth S.P. organization sit patiently under the drippings of an A.F. of L. and reform Officialdom, and privately owned press?

Has Local Duluth no apprehensions regarding the corrupting influence of evil communications upon good manners? Will the one rotten apple in its barrel not taint the rest’?

Is there no ringing sound in the ear of Local Duluth ringing the warning that experience has pounded into the maxim: “Were it not for the good priests, the bad ones would have no show”?

Finally, what business has a body, that is S.L.P. in principle, among a mass that pooh-poohs S.L.P. principles as “impossibilist,” and does “business” upon the strength of the pooh-poohing?

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