

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 7, NO. 131.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1906.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE JOB BOTCHED.

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THE additional reports that are coming in on the election in this State are slowly raising the curtain over the latest election frauds perpetrated by the ruling class. The figures, as they are rising to the surface, present a chain of evidence the most convincing yet on record of the lengths that the ruling class will go and of their power in carrying out their criminal plots at the hustings.

While all the figures agree upon a plurality of about 50,000 for Hughes as originally published by the plutocratic press, later returns on the rest of the State ticket show that the running mates of Hearst ran ahead of him, not by a few thousand, but by scores of thousand votes, so much ahead that already Chandler, the Hearst candidate for Lieut.-Governor, seems to be elected by 10,000 votes over the Hughes Lieut.-Governor, and the rest of the Hughes ticket is in doubt! Hearst was the inspiring force, the steam within the Movement; he had become what a banner is in a battle—the point of rally and the center from which the inspiration radiated. Hearst and Hearstism had become a symbol. It was the symbol that stirred the waves which beat high in this State, and beyond its borders. A man who will believe that scores of thousands of voters would deliberately cut the head and vote for the train of the comet—such a man will believe anything. The fact is that the counting-out job was botched. Like the murderer who, in a hurry to do the deed, anxious to conceal his tracks, rattled by conscience and the fear of detection, often defeats his purpose by bungling, so did the henchmen of the plutocracy. Hurried, nervous, frightened and fearful, shaky in mind and hand, the henchmen of the plutocracy rushed through their work leaving it half undone. Thus their tracks are exposed. The counting-out was bungled, the job was botched. That the plutocracy had made extensive preparations for a counting out was evident from the unguarded language of the *Evening Post* which stated, as a matter of fact and

jubilantly, too, that Hearst had failed to provide himself with an organization that could see that his vote was counted. So extensive were the preparations and so intense, besides, that they overshot the mark. The plutocracy had expected and wanted the whole Hearst ticket to be counted out; their instructions surely were to that effect; but they wished to humiliate Hearst, beside defeating him. To this end they openly expressed the wish to see Hearst run behind his ticket. That job—to count out the whole Hearst ticket but let in a few more votes for the rest of the ticket than for Hearst—was too complicated a job for their henchmen to execute neatly. In attempting to carry out so delicate a job, they botched it. Thus the spectacle is seen of the Hearst ticket probably going through, and Hughes clients, the plutocracy, worried if not considerably exposed by Hearst's triumphant running mates in office. That was not expected by the election fraud schemers.

In so far as the Socialist Labor Party is concerned it can only feel amused at the pickle in which conflicting capitalist elements find themselves. Nevertheless, as stated last week, whether Hearst was counted out or not, his Movement had features about it that, as signs of the times, deserved applause only from the intelligent and honest element of the land. The Hearst Movement is bringing to light facts that nothing short of such a Movement could:

It brings to light the fact that capitalist society can not be mended, and must be ended;

It brings to light the fact that the ballot, un-backed by Might, is a rattle to entertain children, and it points to the Industrial organization of the Working Class as the Might to thwart the crimes of the plutocracy at the ballot box;

It brings out a third fact, the fact that, despite the widely circulated newspapers and millions with which the plutocracy has long been deceiving the people, vast numbers are actually emancipating themselves. That Hearst's program could not possibly improve matters every student of economics knows. All the same, seeing that the Socialist political and economic organizations are not yet in trim to conquer, it is gratifying to see so many hundreds of thousands of the masses tearing themselves away from the political collar of the plutocracy. Sad, indeed, would the future be, if instead of voting for Hearst as they did, the workingmen had allowed themselves to be corralled for Hughes, the pliant pet of blood-stained and convict

capitalists, who liked him all the better for his pliancy, and whose only endeavor is higher dividends from more watered stocks, and from the blood and marrow of the Working Class.

The very botching of the counting-out job emphasizes the facts that the Hearst Movement is bringing to light. Well may the organ of the railroad despots, and prescriber of the “rifle diet for the workingmen,” the *Evening Post*, look white in the gills at the “triumph of Hughes”; well may the paper of the unpunished law breaking banker Schiff, the *Times*, look at the returns with awe, and with chattering teeth declare that “Socialism stands just around the corner.”

There is a job acoming—that job will not be botched.

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Uploaded May 2009

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