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EDITORIAL

FOUR WEEKS BEFORE ELECTION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

TIME, which cures all wounds and heals all defects, does another thing, besides. It “settles” noise and bluster, it wears out false pretence, it illumines truth.

Ten weeks of the campaign has stripped the Republican party bare of every single claim it has made of fitness to continue in power; it has left the Democratic party exposed in all the hideous nakedness of the qualities that have earned for it in the public mind the “Long-eared Jackass” as symbol; it has “settled” the pietistic pretensions of the Prohibition party, which, while affecting theological sanction, has been driven to reject the Bible; it has worn out the declamations of the Independence party by forcing into the mouth of the idle millionaire who finances it the most damaging boomerang admissions; finally, it has trituated the outward crust of Socialist party word-mongery and now exhibits it as a fly-paper concern intent on vote-catching and rhodomontade only. All this has been done by Time. The parties concerned have, of course, helped. But the general exposure is mainly the work of Time.

While Time has thus denuded false pretence, its tooth could not affect one party—the Socialist Labor Party.

The national ticket set up by the S.L.P. rang the signal of an issue that Time can only magnify, never reduce. Socialism—its beautiful goal, its scientific premises—invites oratory of the soundest, ’tis true; but, like all great principles, is exposed to attract hollow declamation. The national ticket of the S.L.P. bars out all the evil possibilities; it admits only the best. It embodies, not principle only; it embodies tactics especially—the principle being understood.

The nomination of M.R. Preston, for whom Gillhaus officiates as proxy, is a summary of goal and means. It is symbolic of the motto “No Union, no Socialist

Republic.” The motto points to the goal; it simultaneously points to the method without which the goal can not be reached.

It is a note that at once dispells the fallacy of pure and simple politics and the lunacy of pure and simple force.

It is a summons to the only force organization available to Labor, and withal ample—the revolutionary economic organization; and it is a simultaneous summons to the necessity of the shield of political action.

These are issues that stand the test of Time’s wear and tear. And now, barely four weeks before election, the only issue that has really survived is the issue presented by the ticket of the S.L.P.

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