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EDITORIAL

DOWN GOES THE REGISTRATION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHILE the political arithmeticians in this city are, with faces more or less long, and countenances more or less glum, trying to figure out where the phenomenal decrease in the registration is heaviest, and are trying thereby to ascertain the effect thereof upon their several candidates, the Socialist Labor Party not only looks on unconcerned; it feels delighted at the manifestation.

Indeed, a decline in Manhattan and the Bronx and Brooklyn in one year of 40,241 registered voters, and of 12,269 since the previous Mayoralty election, is no mean manifestation.

While Republican, Democratic and bogus Socialist party politicians are loudly using the language of mock-auctioneers, each set calling upon the voters to support IT—the voters of Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn to the number of 12,269, compared with those who rushed to the hustings four years ago, have turned their backs upon the criers and are saying: “Fudge!”

While Democratic, Republican and bogus Socialist party spell-binders are yelling themselves hoarse, each set urging the voters to take a pity upon the poor workers, and to elect IT—from the throats of at least 40,241 voters, compared with last year, the thundering response is: “Go hang!”

While Republican, Democratic and bogus Socialist party politicians are, separately and jointly, rattling the pure and simple political rattle, and jointly and separately, are filling the air with mystifying vapors concerning “the change of political personnel”—by the tens of thousands the voters have clapped their hands to their noses and said: “Pshaw!”

And well they may!

What have they to preserve by keeping the Democratic administration in

power, except the burden of keeping these politicians in silk hats, brownstone fronts and whiskey?

What have they to gain by changing the Democratic regime of this city into a Republican or Hearstian? The national and Hearst-aided Republican regime is sufficiently hunger-laden to satisfy any pawnshop keeper, or his decoy-ducks.

What good will it do them to troop into the bogus Socialist party? They will not there have even the consolation of carrying a victorious candidate on their shoulders—the only consolation of political camp-followers and dupes.

Well may these tens of thousands of voters cry “Fudge!”, “Go hang!” and “Pshaw!”

Of course, neither “Fudge!” nor “Go hang!”, nor “Pshaw!” will construct. Yet are they beginnings. More and more disillusioned, more and more schooled by experience, increasing numbers of voters are dropping the superstition of pure and simple ballotism. True enough, some may swing to the opposite and equally crazy extreme of pure and simple bombism. Yet the bulk, once loose from their old moorings, are bound to settle down and crystallize around the unflinching banner of the S.L.P., the banner that intelligently calls for the Social Revolution by the unification of all useful labor, or services, on the political as well as upon the economic field, to the end of capturing the Political State, and immediately abolish it by substituting the Industrial Government.

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