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EDITORIAL

THE REPUBLICAN FIX.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SUPERFICIALLY observed, one may think that the Republican party managers are happy. If they are, then they are not the longheaded political strategists we have given them credit for. In the absence of positive proof of happiness on their part we shall conclude that the election results rather trouble than please their minds. The results were too good. The Republican party can stand any amount of Democratic defeats. It may carry, not merely all the Northern, but all the Southern States to boot, and feel jubilant. But then the defeated party must be but a weaker political manifestation of capitalism. So long as the Democratic notabilities set up by Democrats and bowled down by Republicans, are all capitalists out and out, Republican victories are juicy plums for Republicans and, of course, for modern capitalism. But when the Democratic notabilities, set up by Democrats, are charlatans and circus riders like Bryan and Tom Johnson, and these receive crushing defeats, such as they suffered this election, then the matter is less pleasant.

The Republican party, as the party of outspoken capitalism, needs in the field a party, that, while being grounded on the capitalist system, is silly enough to object to the fruits of capitalism. Such a party will “draw to itself the discontented vote.” It never could win. The Republican chieftains are clear upon that. But such a party would answer for capitalism the excellent purpose of keeping votes away from the Socialist Labor Party. To accomplish such a purpose such a party must have “catchy” candidates. If the candidates are not “catchy” they could not answer their purpose. It is for this reason that we are of the opinion that the recent Republican victory, with its smash-up of Bryan and Johnson, was too good to be pleasing to the Republican party.

Of course, the Republican party can set up decoy-duck parties enough to answer the purpose of the old Democratic party. It is known, for instance, that in this campaign

Quay turned whole brigades of “Socialist” speakers into the mining districts of Pennsylvania to boom things for the Social Democrats, alias “Socialist” party. But there is a certain degree of bother, and tall expense accompanied with such tactics. With a thoroughpaced charlatan Democratic party in the field, the Republican chieftains can leave all the bother to the Democratic politicians, and can save a good deal of campaign funds for their own understrappers.

The crushing defeat of Bryan in Nebraska and Tom Johnson in Ohio may be, it certainly will be a godsend to many a labor skate who traffics on the word Labor, or on the word Socialism; it certainly is not quite to the liking of the Republican political strategists. They succeeded too well.

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