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EDITORIAL

SOCIETY IS NO BARN FOWL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE glass or bogus egg device of the ruralist to trick his hens into laying eggs, and laying them in a certain nest, is well known. The hen, brainless barn fowl that she is, is taken in regularly. The bogus or glass egg, that the ruralist deftly places in the nest, seems to exercise a physico-chemical effect upon the hen. The effect is visible on her. She is kept from straying away, and forthwith begins to cluck; her feathers spread; one after the other the egg-laying symptoms manifest themselves as she paws the glass or bogus egg; and presently, superinduced by the substitute egg, a warm, genuine egg is to be found just where the ruralist can lay hands on it, to dispose of as he may please, either for the market, the table or the hatchery.

What the ruralist takes his silly barn fowl for, the Kangaroo Social Democrat takes Society for; and, as the former treats his hens, in order to make them lay eggs and lay them where he wants, so does the latter treat the voters: places glass or bogus political eggs in its own nest, expecting that the voters will be thereby induced to lay the genuine political eggs of their votes where the Kangaroo can lay hands on and dispose of them as may suit him, either for his political market, or for some other of his corrupt purposes.

In the *Cleveland Citizen* of last October 19, Kangaroo Max Hayes reviews the outlook for his Kangaroo party in these words:

“During the past week I have received a stack of letters from different parts of Ohio, and each one contains the most gratifying reports of the growth of sentiment in favor of the Socialist [read Kangaroo] party. The Socialist [read Kangaroo] party now has a splendid chain of locals in this State, ESPECIALLY IN THE NORTHERN PART.”

A neater bogus egg no fluttering hen ever had laid under her. With such “enthusiasm” for the Kangaroo party, with such “growth of sentiment” in its favor, with such a “splendid chain of locals” and particularly “in the northern part” of the

State, in short—with such an attractive bogus political egg, the barn fowl, that the Kangaroo takes Society for, was expected this November to lay a robust genuine egg of votes in the Kangaroo nest. Unfortunately for the Kangaroo, Society is no barn fowl. The vote in Cleveland—that part of the State where “especially” the “splendid chain” of bogus eggs was placed—marks a slump for the Kangaroo vote. From 985 votes last year, the Kangaroo vote in Cleveland came down to 683! Nary an egg did Society allow itself to lay there. And what is more, the Socialist Labor Party vote increased over last year’s poll, rising above 680.

Society is no barn fowl. The “vis inertiae” that rules man as it rules things, may cause the masses long to resist acceptance of the evangel that the Socialist Labor Party brings to them; they may even be confused and, consequently, disheartened by the noise and dust raised by the bogus “Socialist” party; but to be tricked out of their votes as hens are tricked out of their eggs,—for that the masses are too sensible. The political egg they have in store for the future, the egg that is to overthrow Capitalism and rear the Socialist Republic,—that egg Society will never entrust to an Armory-building and notoriously corrupt political organization, that kotows to the labor lieutenants of the Capitalist Class at all their manoeuvres to keep the rank and file of the workers in the slavery of ignorance. That egg it holds in reserve for the many-times “annihilated” S.L.P., that, despite all assaults, stands unterrified, firm as a rock, and with colors nailed to the flag-staff.

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

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