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{COXEY AND THE BALLOT BOX.}

By DANIEL DE LEON

SAYS the *State Guard*:

“Coxey and the industrial army are marching to Washington. Whenever the industrials get ready to march straight to the ballot box for themselves the problem will be solved. To the ballot box!”

To which the San Diego (Cal.) *Vidette* answers:

“The industrial people marched to the ballot box in Nebraska, but their ballots were thrown out; they marched straight to the ballot box in Georgia, but their votes were thrown out; they marched straight to the ballot box in Alabama, but their ballots were thrown out; they marched direct to the ballot box in Virginia, and again their votes were thrown out; they marched in a body straight to the ballot box in Texas, but they were counted out. Tell us, if you can, how marching to the ballot box will help us under such circumstances. The people want to know. Is it not about time to stop the ballot-box farce and inaugurate wholesale hanging?”

To which we reply:

First, the allusions to Georgia, Alabama, Virginia, Texas or any of the Southern States, or all of them put together, don't count. Every observant reader of our modern history knows that the war with the South will have to be fought all over again.

Second, that the existing conflict for the abolition of wage slavery will have to be settled in the North first and then carried from here South.

Third, that the allusion to Nebraska alone can, in view of this, deserve consideration.

Fourth, that upon close inspection the experience in Nebraska referred to does not hold water. If in Nebraska and throughout the Northern States the class of the exploited march to the ballot box with substantial unanimity, the majority they would poll would be so overwhelming that not even a patent “counting out” machine could count them out fast enough to rob them of their victory; and,

Fifth, wherever the suffrage is approximately free and safe, as it is in Nebraska and throughout the North, whatever revolutionary party is “counted out” deserves to be counted out. The revolutionary party that can not bury its adversaries under an avalanche of votes is not ripe for headship.

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