

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 283.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1911.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

THE VICTORY AT FLINT.

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IN the crop of this Spring's Socialist party Mayoralty victories there is one that IS a victory for Socialism, and that, therefore, the Socialist Labor Party may proudly claim as its own—the Mayoralty victory at Flint, Mich.

The elections of the other Socialist party candidates were mere pocket editions of last years S.P. municipal victory in Milwaukee. As miniatures of that event they illustrate its hollowness. The election in Berkeley, Calif., of the Rev. J. Stitt Wilson makes the point clear. Clearer still does the election in Butte, Mont., of another Reverend, the Rev Lewis J. Deancan—acknowledgedly carried into the Mayoralty chair by the business men of the town merely as a make-shift whereby to get rid of a notoriously corrupt combination of Republican and Democratic local machine politicians. It was otherwise in Flint.

Readers of *The People* will remember that it was from the Central Labor Union of that place that a resolution—closely following upon the heels of the action taken by the mine workers' convention condemning the National Civic Federation and ordering Mr. John Mitchell to choose between God and Mammon, either step out of the said Federation or step out of the Union,—went forth calling upon the officers of the A.F. of L. to sever either their connection with the A.F. of L. or their connection with the Labor-debauching body of capitalists which a Mark Hanna founded and a Seth Low now presides over.

All this was well done. It was a symptom of Working Class resurrection from the grave into which the Working Class had been dumped. The agitation and education towards a consummation so necessary for Labor's emancipation steadily was, as it continues to be, characteristically S.L.P. In that agitation the S.P. had no hand. On the contrary. As attested on pp. 178, 206, and 213 of the proceedings of the S.P. 1904 convention, the S.P. opposed such agitation and education. The S.P. in

that national convention assembled solemnly voted down a resolution that denounced the National Civic Federation by name as an “instrument of the capitalist class to perpetuate the system of to-day, and use organized labor as tools for that purpose.” Whatever the colors under which the victory in Flint was won, it was won by S.L.P. as distinguished from S.P. economic propaganda.

Over the victory in Flint International Socialism may justly rejoice, and, in the rejoicing, none can take juster pride and larger share than the Socialist Labor Party.

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Uploaded February 2012

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