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EDITORIAL

ONWARD, CALIFORNIA!

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**T**OO long has the bogus Socialist party held the field undisputed. The S.L.P. will try hard to overcome the tremendous handicaps imposed by the election law. Our time is now”—with these words the Secretary of the newly organized Bay Counties—Alameda, Santa Clara and San Francisco—Council of the Socialist Labor Party closes his report of the recent Oakland municipal campaign, at which the S.L.P. made what may be called its maiden effort and, despite the increased electorate due to the enfranchisement of women, cut down the S.P. vote by one half, and recorded over 200 votes for a Socialism whose thunder is not stealable by any party of the Ruling Class.

Of all the States of the Union California is that in which the Kangaroo debauchery of the split of 1899 most extensively debauched the Movement. There the elements who had found the S.L.P. “impossible” to indulge their corrupt instincts in, sold themselves outright to the foe. The stench of the late Los Angeles municipal struggle is even now taxing the local S.P.’s efforts to fumigate itself; elsewhere the worthies made common cause with Anarchists; still in other places in the State they became the financial beneficiaries of the most tainted of the Gompersites. Thus on all sides connected with the worst features of California politics, the Officialdom-and-Press of the S.P. throttled the S.L.P. from the field. The “Socialism” set up in California became a veritable ashbarrel of the very worst that “Reform” has anywhere produced. The debauchery seems to have about spent itself.

The closing words of the Secretary of the Bay Counties Council, S.L.P., sum up the situation in the State of California. They are words that should touch a responsive chord in the breasts of every member of the S.L.P. in the State, and of the thousands whom S.L.P. agitation has raised out of the slough of bourgeois muddleheadedness, aggravated by the grovelling, self-seeking, unspeakable manœuvres of the

S.P. California, more absolutely than any other State, will be shaken to her foundations by the cyclone of Rooseveltism. This is the time for the S.L.P. With Rooseveltism claiming its own by the appropriation of all that is “Possible” in the S.P., social and political evolution has brought about the season for that supreme effort when the healthy voice of Socialism should be heard on the political field of the State, and the healthy body of the Socialist Movement should appear on the ballot.

“Possible” Socialism having found its legitimate haven in the belly of Bullmoosia, this is the time, all legal handicaps to the contrary notwithstanding, for “Impossible” Socialism to rise, take the field and keep it.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org