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EDITORIAL

A SNAP-SHOT FROM ACROSS THE LINE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is well periodically to take observations. They will tell whether the course steered by the Socialist Labor Party is true or false, sound or unsound.

Among the charges brought against the S.L.P., and why a new party should be started was that its growth was too slow. The S.L.P. denied not the fact that its growth was slow; neither did it conceal its preference for a more marked growth. It denied however that a rise of votes, in and of itself, indicated growth. The S.L.P. went further. It maintained that a vote gathered by hurrah methods was no growth at all, was even harmful: it deceived and discouraged. Disagreeing with the S.L.P., some gentlemen set up an opposition party, named "Socialist" alias Social Democratic, and great was their joy, and triumphantly did they point at the "big vote" they polled. Now, here is a snap-shot of a part of that vote. The collection of pictures it is taken from is the *Seattle Socialist* of the 15th of this month. The Kodakist is one of themselves, W.E. Fletcher. Reporting from El Paso, Tex., he says:

"We at one time polled more than 100 votes in this town, but are at present up against a union labor movement and our members have gone over to the enemy in crowds. We called two meetings last week, but failed to get a quorum at either....This so-called labor party has here nominated as its representatives a wealthy saloon man to catch the saloon vote, a wholesale hardware Jew to catch the Jew vote, an aristocratic Democratic lawyer to catch the Democratic vote, a Republican bank employee to catch the Republican vote. So you see what a dream of a movement we had here, to be caught by that kind of a move."

What a "Union Labor Party"—a political organization of fakir-led pure and simple unions—is the above snap-shot photographs to perfection. Wherever the apparition has turned up it has swept the so-called Socialist party off its feet, and will do the same

wherever the apparition may turn up later on. With its vote rising and falling like the wind-raised and wind-scattered sand-hills of the desert, as has recently been witnessed in the elections in Massachusetts, and as will be witnessed in the elections everywhere else, the Bogus Socialist, alias Social Democratic party is serving its purpose. It is a sign-post to warn the political traveler to give it and its methods a wide berth.

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