

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 147.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1904.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE THANKS THAT ARE DUE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

TRUE enough, the 3,500,000 votes, that the Debs party was by many expected to poll, did not materialize. Not half of that, not even the 1,000,000 confidently advertised in advance, turned up. But there seems to be no doubt that half a million votes were polled. That has had its psychologic effect—a psychologic effect that the shrewd department stores shrewdly play upon. When they advertise as a special bargain articles for \$1.98, they know what they are doing. People who read the advertisement are caught by the \$1; they take no notice of the cents that amount to almost another dollar. The way the price is put allures them. That has been the effect with the Debs half a million votes. The “million” is attractive enough to induce many to forget it is only half a million. With the word “million” on their minds, the vote has caught and riveted their attention—it riveted their attention upon Socialism. As a result, for the first time in the history of the nation, for the first time since the Socialist Labor Party raised the banner of Socialism in the land, Socialism has received courteous treatment in the press, that formerly only had contumely for it or ribaldry; nay more, a score of College professors, Albion W. Small of the University of Chicago and E. Benjamin Andrews of the University of Nebraska, among the latest, have come out—no longer in their former arrogant bearing of yore, but in respectful attitude, although amidst much of their customary twaddle—with admissions of the seriousness and weightiness of “much that the Socialist contends for”.—That’s worth rendering thanks for on this Thanksgiving day!

It matters not what the quality of the Debs vote is. It matters not that in one place, Montana, the “Socialism” that vote was cast for was “four smelters and a railroad”; it matters not that at another place it was for the theory that “the workingman must save his money and buy out the capitalists”; it matters not that

at a third place it was upon the principle of “reduced rates of transportation”; it matters not that at a fourth place it was against “A.F. of L. scabbery”, while at another it was for that identical concern’s label; it does not even matter that that vote was extensively cast for a “Socialism” that was meant simply as a temporary substitute for Bryanism, or even Hearstism;—all that matters not to our, the militant Socialist’s present purpose. Nor yet does it matter that these papers and professors are not aware of these details, or that their horizon is now bounded by Debs, substantially, if not wholly, ignorant of the Socialist Labor Party’s Presidential ticket, or even the party’s existence;—it matters not! What these papers and professors are now standing respectfully before is not what the Debs vote intrinsically is; what they are standing respectfully before is what they take that vote intrinsically to be. They are standing respectfully before SOCIALISM.

As all know who look below the surface of things, under the Debs smoke is the Socialist Labor Party fire; behind the Debs dust is the Socialist Labor Party gale; beneath the Debs din is the silent tread of the Socialist Labor Party Army of the Revolution. The campaign of 1904 makes a distinct epoch in the history of the land. An old leaf is turned down, a new leaf is turned up. Within the fourteen years’ short space of Socialist Labor Party endeavor, the economic and political contentions of the class, that professorhood had until then despised, have wrung from these High Priests of the Capitalist Class the unwilling recognition of their “seriousness and weightiness”.—THIS WAS THE FIRST SURRENDER.

Who will not join in a hearty thanksgiving on this day, nor forget Eugene V. Debs’ share in bringing it about? What S.L.P. man will not gird his loins to continued, intenser endeavor, that may urge on the advent of still stronger causes for thanksgiving, until that glad day when the thanksgiving will be upon the final, the unconditional surrender of the Capitalist Class, the final, the complete triumph of the Working Class; when the shackles of wage slavery shall have been struck from the limbs of Labor; when the capitalist Usurper shall have been dethroned; when the Socialist Republic shall have been proclaimed!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded August 2007

slpns@slp.org