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EDITORIAL

THE CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS ELECTIONS.

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OFFICIAL and complete returns, now finally in, of the municipal elections held in St. Louis and Chicago on the 6th of this month, are not light straws, they are stout beams pointing the direction of the current with the Socialist party.

The Socialist party has all along maintained that its policy was the correct one in that it “enlisted the sympathy of the Unions,” and proudly did it point to its vote in proof of the pudding. The facts and figures furnished by Chicago and St. Louis during the last five years are appropriate commentaries upon the S.P. position.

In Chicago, the S.P. vote in 1904 was 47,743; in 1908 the vote dropped to 18,842, a loss of 29,101, or be it a loss of nearly 61 per cent.; this year the vote dropped still lower: it came down to 12,672—6,170 less than last year and a record loss of 35,071, compared with 1904—this in the second largest industrial centre of the land.

In St. Louis the figures fell substantially the same tale. In 1904 the S.P. vote was 5,168; in 1908 the vote dropped to 4,900, a loss of 268 votes; this year the vote for the head of the ticket fell still lower: it came down to 2,986—a loss of 2,182, or more than 42 per cent. compared with 1904—this in the fourth largest industrial center of the land.

What these figures denote is something more than a drop. Read by the light of similarly declining figures in most all the industrial centers of the land, beginning with New York, the figures denote an established law of droppage. Seeing that these two latest droppages happen in the second and fourth largest of our cities, it is not a droppage merely that one faces. nor yet the law of the droppage only; it is, above all, the cause of the droppage that is thrown upon the canvas. The figures tell unerringly what *The People* has long been claiming, to wit, that the sympathy,

which the S.P. pretends it enjoys with the working class, is not the sympathy that one entertains for him whom he respects, but is the kind of “sympathy” one entertains for the traitor to his own colors whom one uses and—despises.

The St. Louis election, however, furnishes, besides, a timely and complementary batch of facts. Hitherto, when the acts of S.P. political corruption, dicker and deal with capitalist parties were pitchforked by *The People*, and the occasions therefor were not a few, the ready dodge, just so soon as affectation of doubt could stand no longer, was: “Why, that happened in a small city of no consequence”; or, “The men who did so were raw recruits and did not yet know better.” The dodge “will not wash” with St. Louis. At the late municipal election in St. Louis, two candidates on the S.P. ticket—Emil Simon and Owen Miller—figured simultaneously as capitalist candidates. The former appeared on the Republican, besides the S.P. ticket; the latter shone conspicuous on both the Republican and the Democratic tickets, besides the S.P.

St. Louis is the fourth largest city in the United States—no “out of the way little place.” The S.P. organization in St. Louis is as old as the oldest, the city having been the seat of the first S.P. National Executive Committee, besides being the residential town of the illustrious G.A. Hoehn, whom his fellow partyman Victor L. Berger conclusively proved guilty of having enlisted as a deputy marshal against the striking trolley men at the time.

The Chicago and St. Louis municipal elections are stout beams that unmistakably denote the direction whither the S.P. stream is drifting—and whither S.P. policy was bound to lead to.

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

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