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SECOND EDITORIAL

THE LOGIC OF THE SITUATION.

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So many contributions and other communications have come in during the last fortnight on the subject of the break-up among the Debserie (the hyphenated Socialists: the Debs Democrats and Kangaroos), that perhaps a word at this time will not be out of place.

What has happened only proves the logic of events. That these events should have come so soon might be matter for surprise, the same as if land had risen before the prow of COLUMBUS' ship a month earlier than it did, or than he expected. Land had to be seen to the west, and it was; whether a little sooner or a little later mattered not, that did not alter the logic of the science upon which COLUMBUS banked. So now.

Union can only exist among homogeneous elements, and only such elements have power of progress, because only they have cohesive power, and only they can be animated and guided by moral and intellectual force. Now, nothing is less cohesive than the contents of the garbage-barrel. That only such "forces" were united in the Debserie was optically illustrated at the Cooper Union meeting, recently held, at which the "union" was celebrated. The procession of curiosities, that addressed the audience from the platform, told a very complete tale. Some of those gentlemen were mere freaks; others, mere frauds; some, both freak and fraud; and not one possessed that minimum of common sense that parties in existence might possibly dispense with, but that parties, aspiring to existence, cannot do without. Nor was this an accident. The vocal collection of freaks, frauds and incompetents was a true reflection of the dumb body that it spoke for. That body consists not of the raw material that a new social system is to be woven out of, but of the garbage-barrel material, the offal and refuse of society: the slum element in every sense: struggling small retailers, who cannot rid themselves of the habit of cheating, acquired in their trade; labor fakirs, to whom swindle has become a habit

like breathing; international adventurers without either sense, honor or knowledge; etc., etc. Such material interests are centrifugal; they reflect kindred spokesmen; rupture is inevitable. And the present situation, humorous though it be, and ominous though it is to those involved, is as nothing either to the humorlessness that it will yet develop into, or to the wreckage still in store for it.

Relentless is the logic of events. Never did JOHN STUART MILL make a worse slip than when he claimed that exact scientific principles are inapplicable to sociology. They are so applicable to an amazing degree. As logical as biologic formations, so are sociologic formations. The action of masses of men obey laws as relentless as those that build up the granite rock and that scatter the sand.

In America there is no room to-day for more than three political parties: the party of the enthroned Capitalist Class; the party of the dethroned Middle Class; and the party of the class-conscious, the revolutionary Working Class. The first is the Republican party, the second the Democratic party, and the third the Socialist Labor Party. These three parties have grown up as natural vegetation; they have been beaten and pounded into shape by the inexorable law of the social, economic and political institutions of the land; and they are attending well to their work. No additional parties can arise but as temporary satellites to these, cast-offs bound to disintegrate. Idiosyncrasy has no lasting place in the scheme of Nature.

In the relentless course of events, and thanks to the logic of the attitude of the Socialist Labor Party, nothing can happen that will not knit its limbs more solidly, add to its vigor of bone, and gradually impart to it the power requisite to fulfill its historic mission,—the overthrow of the system of wage slavery, and the establishment of the Socialist Republic.

The smash-up of the Debserie is the fate that awaits all those political cast-offs in the political firmament of our country, that, unable to assimilate with the natural-logical bodies, fly off, are triturated by their own motion, and fall, just so much rubbish, like the meteors that periodically shower down upon our earth,—bankrupt stars from space.

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

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