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EDITORIAL

WELL FOR THE NEGROES!

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is a consummation devoutly to be wished that the action of the “Texas Negro Republican Voters,” a body said to number 150,000 members, in announcing their independence from the Republican party, and pledging themselves to Bryan, may mark the beginning of an era of progressive enlightenment, with this year’s action as “first step.”

Hitherto, as a rule, the Negro allowed the Republican party to handle him as voting cattle, do his thinking, and “deliver” him. To be a Negro was equivalent to be *{sic}* a Republican, that is, a pariah of the Republican machine. The declaration of the Texas Negro Republicans turns over a new leaf—it is hoped.

The declaration sets forth that the organization henceforth proposes “to sustain the political party which will best enhance the economic conditions of the country.” The conclusion that, therefore, the Texas Negro Republicans will cast their vote for Bryan would seem to be a false one from the given premises. Indeed, not only is not Bryan’s party calculated to enhance the economic conditions of the country, nor yet, even if in some remote way Bryan’s election would ease up things, is his party the one that tends most towards the promotion of the country’s welfare. Compared with the Socialist Labor Party, whose ticket the Texas Negro Republicans will find in full swing in their State, Bryan’s party is not in it for soundness.

But that matters not. Not by leaps does progress march. It marches from step to step. The Texas Negro Republicans have taken a first, the necessary first step. That step was to shake off the yoke with which the Republican party replaced the yoke it took off the Negro’s neck when Lincoln proclaimed them free from their rebel masters. The next steps will be easier, nor should they be long in being taken.

Once on the path of progress, the Negro can not long remain out of the Socialist camp. Well may the Socialist camp make ready to receive this division of the army

of the proletariat that has been wandering in the wilderness since 1865.

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