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EDITORIAL

THAT MASSACHUSETTS MAN OF STRAW GETS IT AGAIN.

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THERE is great glee in the camp of the capitalists of Massachusetts in particular, and of the country at large. Their Socialist straw-man in Massachusetts—the Democratic Social, alias Social Democratic, alias Socialist party—has got another knockdown. The “Socialist” Mayor of Brockton has been defeated, and in all the towns but one the vote of this party makes a decided decline. Of course, the capitalist press now has a series of articles commenting upon the event. Already they are pointing out the “defeat of Socialism,” and they comment upon the “Unfitness of Socialism on American soil” as “evidenced by the rapid downfall of the Socialists of Haverhill and Brockton,” together with the party’s vote all over the country. And that was just the purpose for setting up that party, by those who knew what they were about.

The capitalist politicians of America are a clever set. What they do not know is not worth knowing,—in the line of political chicanery, based upon an extensive knowledge of the weaknesses, or rather weak spots of human nature. The Socialist Labor Party could not be knocked down, neither could it be laughed out of existence, least of all could it be reasoned aside: all the trumps are in the hands of the Socialists. Socialism, advocated by that body was unconquerable, and it proved the grit that was in it by its steady, however slow, progress. Cajolery could not bag it; sweet words could {not} throw it off its guard; nor could threats intimidate it. With ample experience on all this, the capitalist politicians resorted to the only strategy left, to wit, to set up a bogus Socialist party and in that way seek to lead into the ground the socialist spirit that the S.L.P. was evoking and had evoked. The result was the polynomial party. But the scheme failed. The education that the S.L.P. had spread was too sound for the infamous scheme to succeed. Armory building, votings of franchises to capitalists, political log-rolling with capitalist politicians,

vaccination issues, taxation issues, liquor issues,—all these brays brayed by the Kangaroo Social Democrats were like the brayings of the donkey in the fable who sought to pass for a lion. The result was the speedy abandonment of the concern by shoals of workers who had floated to it, and the staying away of any others. The final result is the defeat of the candidates that had been elected and the virtual melting away of the vote that had been corralled under false pretenses.

The original plan having failed, and the S.L.P. standing firm as a rock in the midst of the storm, the capitalist politicians are seeking to derive all the profit they can from the collapse of their straw man. Accordingly, they now affect great gratification at the “defeat of Socialism.” What was beaten was the straw man, raised by capitalism. The weak spots of human nature are appealed to. It is expected that the downfall of the straw-man will be construed by the masses as the downfall of Socialism; and to that end every effort is put forth.

But Socialism cannot be beaten by the collapse of the straw-man. Such collapses the S.L.P. will take care shall be properly understood, and with S.L.P. agitation, organization and education will redound only to the advantage of Socialism.

The bogus goes down; the true remains.

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