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EDITORIAL

HEARST, OR THE S.L.P.

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THERE are no six political parties—Republican, Democratic, Prohibitionist, Independence League (Hearst), Socialist Labor, and Socialist (without the Labor)—in this State and this campaign. There are just two —the Independence League and the Socialist Labor Party.

This is no swaggerer's braggadocio.

Although well aware that many are the young Socialists among the rank{s} of the Socialist party who are bound to come over to the S.L.P.; although knowing that still a very many times vaster number of Socialists still "in solution" among the old party voters can not choose but to crystallize as S.L.P. militants; although these and numerous other and kindred facts point to the assured victory of the S.L.P., the proper consideration of the same facts establishes that the victory of the S.L.P. can not come this year, or the next. Strenuous as the S.L.P. may and does work to secure suffrage support, it is to-day essentially a party of the future, hence a party of propaganda—hence a party engaged in laying foundations.

Identically with the Hearst party. A miss being as good as a mile, the Hearst party is as incapable now of triumph at the ballot box as the S.L.P.; and exactly as the S.L.P. the Hearst party is, on its part, a party of the future. The two, the S.L.P. and the Hearst party, are the two parties destined to survive; they are bound to divide among themselves the conflicting forces of the land, now scattered about; they are bound to gather under their banners the one the forces of the Revolution, the other the forces of Reaction—and to fight out the battle.

The six existing parties fall, accordingly into two categories—parties of the past, and parties of the future.

Among the parties of the past are the Democratic and Republican parties with their petty satellites of the Prohibition and so-called Socialist party. The light of

many a star that is extinct continues to shine for a while. Such extinct stars are the Republican and Democratic parties. They seem in possession; in a way, they are; they seem powerful, so they are, in a way; nevertheless their foundation is gone. The readiness with which the Democratic party transformed itself into a conservative affair; the turmoil within the Republican party to transform itself into a Progressive concern prove the fact of both having become rootless.

The party of Hearst, by denouncing the crimes of the two parties of capital, while itself remaining a capitalist party, is bound to make propaganda for the idea that a capitalist party can be without being smirched with corruption; and that is certain to bring about a new capitalist alignment. With the vanishing of the old parties of capital there can not choose but to vanish also the Prohibition party, set up by the Democratic to draw votes away from the Republican, and the so-called Socialist party, set up by the Republican to draw votes away from the Democratic party.

Whoever has eyes to see, undimmed and unwatered by the dust of the conflict that now rages, will throw his weight either into the scale of the Hearst party or into that of the S.L.P. These are the rising parties—they are the parties of the future—the party of Caesarism as the only anti-Socialist solution of the existing state of Disorder, and salvation from Anarchy; or the S.L.P., the party of Socialism as the only anti-Caesar solution to the existing Social Question.

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