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EDITORIAL

## GLEANINGS OF THE 1911 ELECTIONS.

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**F**IRST of all, the Rev. George R. Lunn was elected Mayor of Schenectady in this State on the Socialist party ticket, pulling along with him the rest of the city and county ticket, and landing an S.P. assemblyman in the State Legislature. The Rev. Lunn's ticket received the endorsement of Hearst's Independence League, but, differently from other S.P. candidates who receive bourgeois political endorsement and "lie low" on the matter, the Rev. Lunn was characterful and straightforward enough to publicly recognize, accept and boast of the honor. A straightforward man, even if on the wrong track, is better than a man of duplicity, whether on the right track or not.

Tammany loses control of the Legislature. While from the Socialist view point Republicans and Tammanyites are both anti-Labor, both exploiters, nevertheless the Socialist knows that the brutality of feudalism, represented by Tammany, is a lower step on the ladder of progress than the despotism of capitalism, more specifically represented by the anti-Tammany bourgeois forces. So long as Socialism can not itself carry the Legislature, triumphant capitalism is preferable to the triumphant rowdyism of Tammany.

Of indirect interest to the Socialist, yet of considerable interest as indicating the course of events are the gyrations in the camp of the foe. The 1911 elections denote, by the defeat of Gov. Woodrow Wilson's Legislature in New Jersey, and the signal triumph of his Ohio leading competitor for the leadership of the Democratic hosts in the presidential campaign of next year, that the probabilities are that the Democratic party will be "safe and sane" in 1912, while the Republican defeat in Massachusetts on the tariff issue, to say nothing of their defeat in Ohio, vastly improves the prospects for the forces of La Follette and the Republican Insurgents generally at the next Republican national convention.

Of direct interest to the Socialist is the Socialist vote.

Tho' slow to come in, the Socialist Labor Party vote being still "negligible" so far as indications go they indicate growth, while the S.P. vote with its bushel of elected Mayors and minor officers, points to decided increase. Whereat the Socialist rejoices. Vain it is for anti-Socialists to minimize the significance of this phenomenon by accounting for it with "discontent" and "dissatisfaction with corrupt officials," and other such causes. Without discounting the weight of such strictures, they lie in the mouth of the S.L.P. only. However vaporous the S.P. vote, it is an encouraging sign of the times. The discontent that gathers around the word "Socialism" has a vastly better prospect of eventually crystallizing to a purpose than the discontent which gathered around the word "Populism." It is not all gain, true enough; but neither is it all loss. Until its crystallization into S.L.P. significance, worth, and effectiveness, the increasing volumes of S.P. votes are beams afloat that tell of a strong current forming for the overthrow of capitalist Rule.

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