

EDITORIAL

MILWAUKEE, A RETROSPECT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE classified figures on the late spring municipal election in Milwaukee, being in, they point to conclusions that are noteworthy.

In 1910, the total poll was 59,484. Of this figure, Seidel, the Social Democratic candidate on the Social Democratic ticket, received 27,608, or nearly 47 per cent. and was defeated.

In 1912, the total poll was 75,326. Of this figure, the Social Democratic ticket received 30,200, or 42 per cent and was elected.

The increase of the 1912 poll over the poll of 1910, was 15,842. Of this increase the Social Democratic ticket received only 2,592, or a little over 16 per cent.

In 1910, the Social Democratic ticket carried all the proletarian Wards of the city. Since 1910 the city has been re-apportioned, but the nature of the majority of the Wards remained substantially unchanged. In 1912, out of the fifteen proletarian Wards, the Social Democratic ticket carried only seven, or less than one-half, and several of the seven that it carried had, due to the re-apportionment, been made perceptibly middle class.

Accordingly, after two years of trial, the Social Democratic party lost the hold it had in 1910, on the proletariat of the industrial center of Milwaukee.

The figures by Wards point to the conclusion that there was an extensive realignment of voters in 1912, middle class voters with assessable property going over to the Social Democrats, they being attracted thither by the agitation of the Social Democratic administration; and proletarian voters falling away from the Social Democratic party, they believing it to be even worse than it really is for not having kept its promise of 1910, to reduce prices, and finding the evidence of their suspicions in the Social Democratic false pretence of promoting the interests of the workers by seeking to lighten the burden of taxation from the shoulders of the petit bourgeoisie.

The figures for the Milwaukee spring election expressly enter the warning against hurrah campaigns for Socialism. Branches of the Ruling class may find their account in such campaigns; and so may individual holders of, or aspirants to a seat on the bandwagon of the Ruling class. But the working Class? or Socialism? Neither will by such purely bourgeois political manœuvres, fetch from participation in them, aught but disappointment, shame and discouragement.

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