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EDITORIAL

## NO COMMUNE DISASTER!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**T is not necessary to await the complete election returns in order to size up the situation as indicated by the election returns, and take courage as well as receive warning. For certain purposes, this purpose among others, figures and facts now in court are ample.

Three facts stand out clear:

First. That the Socialist Labor Party, which was to be wiped out sure this time, is not only not wiped out but stands stronger;

Second. That the Social Democratic, alias “Socialist,” alias what-not party, has tangibly increased its vote thanks to its praises of Mitchell, in other words, thanks to its placing its head squarely into the capitalist noose of backing up the delusion of harmonious relations between capital and labor;

Third. That the Social Democratic, alias etc., press throughout the land is explaining away the S.L.P. increased vote with the theory that “those who cast that vote meant to vote for the Social Democracy.”

It is this last fact, that, as a hoop, binds the first two, and, together with them, presents a combined fact of interest.

These Social Democratic explainers are not all crooks. The feature of their explanation is the sincerity of most of them; in other words, their **fatuity**. Now, then, to the expert ear and the expert eye, no sound and no sight is a more ominous symptom than **fatuity** in a movement that handles a revolution. It marks the body so afflicted as children playing with fire, sure to burn themselves; as pigmies handling a sword above their strength, sure to slash them. Leaders are essentially products of the rank and file. Like all other effects, leaders may and do react upon the rank and file, and, in so far, exercise causal influence; nevertheless, leaders are essentially effect, not cause: they are

the rank and file vocalized. When, accordingly, we see and hear to-day the leadership of the Social Democracy indulge in such an act of fatuity, as, not only to go into hysterics over a vote gained at the price of clothing pure and simple reactionarism with the trappings of revolution, but going beyond that, and ostrich-like, shutting their eyes to the standing of the Socialist Labor Party and claim its actual non-existence, being unintentionally supported;—when that is seen and heard, then **fatuity** becomes the leading trait in the physiognomy of their movement.

Fatuity marked the ill-starred Paris Commune. Lost upon the Social Democracy of the land is the warning of Engels on this head. Gloomy, indeed, would be the outlook in America if the cause of the Social Revolution were wholly in such hands. Fortunately, it is not. The very circumstance that brings out clearly Social Democratic fatuity—the firm stand and increased Socialist Labor Party vote—is an earnest that America will escape a Commune Disaster.

This fact, for one, the elections have thrown up clear. It is a fact to be hailed with joy. It is a fact to spur every Socialist to renewed activity. It is a fact to reconcile every Socialist to the thoroughness of the path he treads.

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