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EDITORIAL

WASTEFUL RADIATION.

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THE Vermont election should not pass unnoted. Not that it has any political significance. Neither in point of the size of the State, nor in point of the season did anything worth noting happen when the independent candidate for governor drew last Tuesday such a large number of votes from the ruling Republican, and from the Democratic, party as to throw the election into the legislature, and smash the established Republican supremacy in the State. What is noteworthy in the occurrence is the evidence furnished by the election figures that, thick though the crust of political habits of thought may seem to be, it is fact thin and worn out, and can be easily broken by the healthy breath of honest convictions.

The Democrats believe in free rum; the Republicans believe in pretending to be hostile to rum, and, accordingly, to favor high license (the only solution to drunkenness visible to the political capitalist mind), but while so holding, the Republicans utilize license for corrupt purposes. In sight of this, Percival W. Clement, with an intellectual horizon bounded by capitalist thought, but an honesty of convictions that is rare with such people, took the field as an independent candidate with “high license and local option” as his platform, and Democratic-Republican corruption on the liquor question as his battle axe. The man’s strong personality, due to his strong convictions, breathed a fresh draught of air into the political arena with the results stated above.

And what does this mean?

The minds of the masses of men naturally aspire to the right. The intellect naturally needs radiation, and radiate it will; so bound is it to radiate, to seek expansion upward, that, in default of a better cause, in default of the sound cause, it will take up any—even a silly one such as “high license and local option”—provided that cause carries with it the breath of unquestionable sincerity.

The Vermont election is noteworthy in that it gives an inkling of the tidal wave that awaits the nation when the unterrified Socialist Labor Party, with its unflinching purpose, born of its convictions, and with its rock-ribbed sincerity, born of the soundness of its principles, shall have the opportunity to reach the masses, only a small number of whom its limited means have so far enabled it to reach, and thus to set on foot a useful, not the present wasteful radiation that sporadically breaks out.

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