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# Politics

by Eugene V. Debs

Published in *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*, vol. 11, no. 1 (Jan. 1887), pg. 3.

The *Locomotive Firemen's Magazine*, be it remembered, is not a political publication in the common acceptation of the term. But in the United States politics should never be degraded as the synonym of anything opprobrious. Politics, be it understood, is the "science of government," and government, in the United States, is established and maintained by the consent of the governed.

This much preliminary to saying that in the late elections, Labor came to the front as a force in politics that has astonished the country, made men open their eyes and ex-claim, "What next?"

The pages of this *Magazine* will bear ample testimony that what has happened did not take us by surprise. We have said labor is organizing to better its condition by practicable and lawful means. We have said labor has the ballot and we have sought, as best we could, to magnify its power. We have said that the educational forces abroad in the land, were lifting, by their more than Archimedean power, the workingmen of the country to a peership with those who have in the past controlled governmental affairs. Results confirm our predictions, and now labor stands ready to be crowned as the coming king, whose mission it is to eliminate wrong from statutes and courts, correct antiquated abuses and to see that right and justice have a respectful hearing when the interests of the great body of the people are involved.

In recalling what labor has demanded in the past, men of prudent thought confess astonishment that its moderate requests have not been granted, but refusal following neglect, and neglect taking on all the offensiveness of ostracism, labor at last grasped the idea of unification, and, in turn, discarding parties, or, for the nonce, selecting men from the various parties known to be in sympathy with the great body of wage men, at the first onset won a victory and in the ranks of those whose policy had been in flagrant antagonism to the interests of

the workingmen, inaugurated confusion and changed in a large degree the current of political thought.

As we have predicted, the working men of America will geek assiduously for means of bettering their condition, apart from strikes and the boycott. They will discard anarchy and anarchists, violence by whatever name it is known, or by whatever method it may seek to gain its ends. The stupendous falsehood, whether insinuated or independently announced, that working men **are not law abiding**, is to be throttled or choked to death, or, indignantly crushed under the feet of the triumphant hosts of men who, knowing their rights and daring to maintain them, appeal to the ballot, to the law and the testimony.

We are to hear less in future about the war between labor and capital, because such a war is the creation of diseased brains. Such a war does not exist, and in the nature of things can not and never did have an existence. But there has been a war waged in public sentiment, grasping monopolists seeking by statutes, and precedents, established usages, to maintain a crushing ascendancy over the wealth-producing millions of men the maintenance of a policy of injustice by which the few sacrificed the rights of the many, and in justification of their course, have been able to plead the statutes and the decisions of courts.

Under the new regime, inaugurated by the wage men of the country, such forms of injustice are to disappear, and the blessings to flow therefrom are, like the rain, to fall upon the unjust as certainly as the just, by which we mean that the reign of right is to be a national benediction.

It is most gratifying to observe that the great body of the people hail with evident satisfaction this new departure in politics, the “science of government.” It is a case in which politics is being rescued from the mere partisan, the boss, and the bummer, and made to honestly represent the will and best interests of the governed. It bears glowing testimony to the power of the ballot for good, when wielded with an honest purpose to secure the largest practicable good to the largest number of people.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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First Edition.