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EDITORIAL

## THE ROOSEVELT-TAFT PRIMARIES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**ITHOUT in any way meaning to discount the significance of the reappearance of Theodore Roosevelt on the political stage, and the role he has there assumed, there is in the primary polls matter from which the lover of Freedom may gather comfort, hope, inspiration.

In the nature of things, the oligarchic purposes that President Taft pursues are not of the sort of purposes that require, or are promoted by, a beating of drums. The gum-shoe is the more likely means. On the other hand, it is in the nature of things that the purposes pursued by Col. Roosevelt should beat the drum as loud as possible. The path to Dictatorships ever is accompanied with noise. The noise of "democracy" can not be too loud to drown the footsteps of autocracy. A final consequence of all this is that the Roosevelt-Taft primaries have been of the noisiest. The President's taking the field against Roosevelt, instead of acting as a silencer, incited still greater and more noise from the Roosevelt side. The long and short of the story is that the Roosevelt-Taft primaries have been of the loudest that any political contest is known to have been in the land. This notwithstanding, what is seen? A small total poll. The Roosevelt majorities tend to conceal the fact. Yet louder than the Roosevelt noise do the figures speak.

The small total poll is a source from which to gather comfort, hope, inspiration.

True enough, only enrolled voters can vote at primaries, generally. In several States even that restriction does not exist. But, whether only the enrolled voters can participate, or not, the fact sticks out clear as a pike that only a small percentage of the men active in the Republican and Democratic primaries have warmed up to the Roosevelt standard. Whether the enrolled electorate is "on to" Taft and Roosevelt or not, clear it is that neither of the two has a "personal following," large enough to cause the scales of legitimate progress to kick the beam.

It is a comfort, it is a source of hope and inspiration to read the totals of the primary votes, and discover facts enough to warrant the belief that however ready Roosevelt and his backers are for a reactionary revolution, the masses are not yet desperate enough in their sufferings to be carried off their feet.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)