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EDITORIAL

## REPUBLICAN ELECTORAL SWINDLES.

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**I**T may not be called “election frauds,” it may not come under any specific head of the criminal code, nevertheless the manoeuvres of the Republican managers in this State in connection with the Populist party tell as clearly of moral guilt as if the code expressly provided for them.

The electoral machinery is every where declaimed about by the capitalist class as the palladium of the people’s liberty. In order to be that, it is essential that the said machinery be free of guile. The tricks of the race-course must not have their parallels on the hustings. The tickets presented must be bona-fide calls issued by bona-fide bodies to citizens who must not be laboring under the apprehension that they must look out or they may be buncoed. Such should be the characteristic of the electoral machinery, and such it would be in the hands of representatives of a moral social system. Such, however, it is not to-day, and can not be in the hands of the public powers run by capitalism.

Accordingly, it is no wonder to see the present disclosures. The Republican party, believing that the Populist party was essentially Democratic, circulated petitions and filed the nominations for a Populist party with Watson at the head of the ticket. The calculation is that thereby votes, that otherwise would go to the Democratic party, will be drawn away, and the Republican party’s chances would be improved. To a similar trick of the Republican party, as is well known, is due the existence of a “Social Democratic” party in this State. The obvious fraudulence of both names being intended to draw votes away from both the Democratic and the Socialist Labor Party.

One need not grieve at such chicanery being practiced upon the Democratic party. As to that party, the case is one of swine rend swine. But the turpitude of the act lies in the imposition on the people whose political faith is Populism, and who

are not in the deal. However in error these people may be economically, they are serious and honest. To play upon them in such manner, to seem to afford them a chance to vote for the principles of their convictions, while in fact they are thereby practically led to vote for a ticket that hold exactly the reverse of what they hold—the Republican ticket—such an act is despicable. It well illustrates the utter prostitution of the mind that the capitalist politician is guilty of.

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

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