
The Ballot Box

Resolution of the Workingmen's Party of the United States
Adopted at its Union Congress, July 19-22, 1876.

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Considering, That the economical emancipation of the working classes is the great end, to which every political movement ought to be subordinate as a means;

Considering, That the Workingmen's Party of the United States in the first place directs its efforts to the economical struggle;

Considering, That only in the economical arena the combatants for the Workingmen's Party can be trained and disciplined;

Considering, That in this country the ballot box has long ago ceased to record the popular will, but only serves to falsify the same in the hands of professional politicians;

Considering, That the organization of the working people is not yet far enough developed to overthrow at once this state of corruption;

Considering, That this middle class republic has produced an enormous amount of small reformers and quacks, the intruding of whom into the Workingmen's Party will only be facilitated by a political movement, and

Considering, That the corruption and misapplication of the ballot box as well as the silly reform movements flourish most in the year of presidential election, at such times greatly endangering the organization of workingmen;

For these reasons the Union Congress meeting at Philadelphia this 22nd day of July 1876, *Resolved*,

The Sections of this party as well as all workingmen in general are earnestly invited to abstain from all political movements for the present and to turn their back on the ballot box.

The Workingmen will therewith save themselves bitter disappointments, and their time and efforts will be directed far better towards the organization of the workingmen, which organization is frequently destroyed and always injured by a hasty political movement.

Let us bide our time! It will come!

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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