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EDITORIAL

A PARALLEL.

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WATCH the language of the Republican press towards Socialism, or the Labor Movement—

Does Socialism point to the fact that Labor has nothing to expect from Taft and should vote against him?—The Republican press points to the Labor vote that solidly supported Taft as the all-sufficient proof that the Socialist claim is false.

Does Socialism point to the innumerable acts of corruption among Republican politicians? The Republican press makes answer that Socialists “are fanatics,” moreover, “What of it? We can make more noise than you; we can drown your voice.”

Does Socialism argue that the capitalist system is unstable, and is the wildest of utopias?—The Republican press rocks itself comfortably in the tidal wave of votes that “promises” the endurance of their system.

Now turn around and watch the language of the press of the Socialist party towards the Socialist Labor Party—

Does the S.L.P. point to the fact that a party of Socialism which ignores the necessity of the industrial and class-conscious organization of the working class to steady the ballot can not possibly lead the workers to victory, that it can only lead them to eventual massacre, and that of such nature is the S.P.?—The S.P. press points to their many times larger vote as the all sufficient answer to “S.L.P. fallacy.”

Does the S.L.P. point to the acts of corruption that flourish in the S.P.—the appearance of get-rich-quick advertisements in its papers; dickers with political parties; betrayals of proletarian interests through “backward races” anti-immigration language; pronouncements that “Jesus proclaimed Socialism”; subserviency on the part of its press to brewery and other capitalist advertisements; etc., etc.?—The S.P. press makes answer that the S.L.P. is an organization of

“fanatics,” moreover, “What of it? We can make so much more noise than you, and you can’t be heard.”

Does the S.L.P. argue that the S.P. is an impossibility as the party of the future, needed to storm the political breastworks of capitalism and must go to pieces?—The S.P. press and spokesmen rock themselves comfortably in their unquestionably several halfscore times larger vote, as proof of assured existence.

Now take a bird’s eye view of the two—Republican and Socialist party press. The sight and sound of cynicism leaps identical from both camps and merges into one. It is the identical sight and sound that leaped from Tweed’s poise and lips—What are you going to do about it?

Nor will events fail to complete the parallel.

As the sneers of seemingly beyond-peril capitalism towards Socialism, seemingly engaged in a hopeless task, are bound to change into the opposite of sneers, so will the cynicism of seemingly beyond-peril S.P.-ism towards the S.L.P., seemingly, struggling against odds of sound and noise too big to be overcome, change, eventually, if not sooner, into the exact opposite of cynicism—just as fared Tweed.

There is no safe-building upon the quicksands of Unreason, with its train of flim-flam. The proudest structure reared upon such ground must come down with a crash. The future belongs to Reason and the “fanatic” integrity that will not be flim-flammed.

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

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