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EDITORIAL

## CHARITIES TO THE FORE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**E**VEN the least observing must be struck by the frequency with which “Charities” and “connection with Charities” is occurring in the mayoralty campaign that is about to be launched from the two leading political naval yards in this city.

The Republican-Fusion nominee Bannard is described as a trustee of the Provident Loan Society of New York, known as the “Philanthropic pawnshop”; Justice Gaynor of Tammany-Independence moorings is extensively described as “extensively interested in charity organizations”; Mr. De Forest, of Tenement House notoriousness, and a candidate considered by at least one of the above two groups, was advertised as one who “gave up his best thoughts to charitable institutions”; to mention only two more political notabilities active in the selection of “our next Mayor,” Thos. A. Murly is, we are told, “actively connected with a score of charities,” and John G. O’Keefe is “a trustee of numerous charities.”

What does all this charitable music mean? Is the Millennium about to ride into town on horseback?

Far from it.

It means that poverty has extended so rapidly, and is extending so far that an amazing amount of people are paupers. It means, next, that a new business is flourishing—the business of Charities. Combining the two meanings, the sudden eruption of trustees and directors of charitableness means that the capitalist class and its henchmen—the very producers of this plague of pauperism—have found a means to extract more wealth out of the human ruin.

In mining, the rich ores are first worked, and then what was discarded as dross is next sifted. A mining camp is capitalist society; the proletariat and lower middle class are the quarry. In regulation days money is squeezed out of them in the shop

and in speculation; then, when the juice is out, their pauperism becomes a pretext for “charitable organizations,” intended to accomplish the charitable end of affording fat jobs for some other capitalist smelters.

“Charities” has passed the stage of a small business; it has entered the stage of the “Interests.” Moreover, it distances all other “Interests” in its adaptability to catch the November-fly vote.

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

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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)