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EDITORIAL

BRYAN “COMING OUR WAY.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN his *Commoner* Mr. Bryan introduces a nearly five-column article on the platform adopted by the Ohio Democratic convention this month, with these words:

“It began with municipal and state issues, and the handiwork of Mayor Tom L. Johnson was evident in THE TERSE AND EMPHATIC DECLARATION OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES SO FAR AS THEY APPLY TO LOCAL QUESTIONS.”

He then proceeds to explain that “there is sound Democracy” in the demand that looks to municipal ownership of railways.

Let the Glasgow plan municipalizationists rejoice; let the Socialism-in-our-timers take heart! Has not Bryan himself committed himself to Socialism by that passage? Let the *Arena* make a note for its next month’s “Topics of the Times,” and point out one more event to prove that “mind and heart are being touched” and that “the cause of co-operation and the public ownership of public utilities is being carried forward.”

In the meantime, the Socialist Labor Party, with a perverseness that fully justifies the angriest epithets from the Fraternity of Reformers, will continue incredulous. Nay, it will do more. It will continue to tear the false mask of Socialism from the schemers, who try to deceive therewith, and will with ruthless blows smite both mask and would-be deceivers.

There is no reason under the sun why the Democratic capitalists should not want their politicians to run the railways, and also all other “public utilities.”

Is not the municipal Government of Greater New York a “public utility”? And do not the politicians of the Democratic capitalists, and eke of the Republicans, run the said public utility entirely to the satisfaction of the said capitalists? Witness the broken heads administered to the trolley strikers only a few years ago.

Is not the State Government of South Carolina a “public utility”? And do not

the politicians of the Democratic capitalists, and eke of the Republicans, operate the said public utility fully to the pleasure of the said capitalists? Witness children under ten years exploited in her factories, and a bill to remedy such evil thrown out as immoral and un-Christian?

Is the national Government of the United States perchance no "public utility"? And who is there, daring enough to gainsay that the politicians of the Democratic capitalists, and eke of the Republicans, were, under the Democratic administration of Cleveland, remiss in their alertness to satisfy the said capitalists? Witness the bayoneting of the Pullman strikers into subjection to their exploiters.

Let the moon-calf Reformers be humbugged with words; let the Cleveland Social Democratic Wooldridges line their coats with "terse and emphatic" and, above all, convenient Johnsonianist Socialism. That is the style they are built on. Otherwise with the S.L.P. It is neither moon-calf nor crook. Not the best baited hook can lure it, nor can bribes put it on its head. It is here to pull up branch and root the capitalist system, and dump the vermin capitalist class, that is nesting in the branches of that Upas tree.

Bryan's and Johnson's "coming our way" will be true only when they shall all, together with their Republican compeers, march united to meet and give battle to the Socialist Labor Party.

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

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