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EDITORIAL

BOLD BAD TAMMANY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

UNOFFICIALLY, semi-officially and officially all the several “Good Government” forces, the Republican political machine among the lot, who are foregathering in this city with the single purpose of giving New York a clean administration have decided that, seeing the independent nominee for Mayor, Judge Gaynor, will receive and accept the endorsement of Tammany Hall, they will set up an opposition candidate to him.

To the dull witted this may look like a stamp of opprobrium, deliberately laid upon Tammany Hall. To the keen witted it will be obvious that the stamp laid upon Tammany is one of vindication.

The fundamental principle with Good Government forces is: “Municipal issues are non-political.” At least this is the principle which they announce most loudly, and upon the strength of which they call upon the good people of the city to rally to their standard.

All along the Socialist Labor Party has looked incredulously upon the principle. The Party could ill understand for what occult reason gentlemen, who were divided politically upon the Panama Canal, the Philippines, the Tariff, Banking, Water Courses, Army and Navy Appropriations, Appropriations for the Archbishop of Manila, in short, upon one and all the issues that take up the time of Congress, should insist upon the non-political nature of the Tenement House, the Traction, the Water Supply, the Gambling, in short, all the issues that occupy the attention of our Mayors and Aldermen.

If Panama Canal is a political, how can Traction be a non-political issue? If the Tenement House Question is non-political, for what mysterious reason are the Philippines political? The deeper one probed the question all the fishier did the principle look. This year’s Good Government forces have rendered doubt no longer

necessary.

The principle is a lure. If an Independent candidate may not accept the nomination of the Tammany political machine on the ground that municipal issues should not be tainted with political bodies, and yet the very men who are pulling up their skirts from the political contamination of Tammany are herding with the Republican political machine, the fact is demonstrated that they know that politics enter into all public matters, and that to deny the fact, by setting up the principle “Municipal issues are non-political,” is but to indulge in a fraudulent trick to trick the voters of their support.

There is another fact demonstrated by the Good Government forces—Tammany’s frankness. Tammany may be, Tammany is unspeakable as a gang of political highway robbers. But is not the bold bad man a less despicable article than the masked bad man?

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