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EDITORIAL

## “BOSSISM.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**H**OW sad the havoc that the presidential bee will make even in the brightest heads Senator Isidor Rayner of Maryland is illustrating by his fulmination against Bryan for “dictating,” for “ordering,” in short, for “bossism.”

What is it that Bryan is doing and that the Senator is not doing?

Bryan has his views, so has the Senator; Bryan believes he is right, so does the Senator; Bryan advocates his views, so does the Senator; Bryan endeavors to convert others to think as he does, so does the Senator; Bryan holds those who differ from him to be mistaken, so does the Senator hold those who differ from him to be in error. Look as one may for that act of Bryan’s that may differ from the Senator’s acts, or for that act of the Senator’s that may differ from Bryan’s in the matter of promoting the triumph of what each holds to be correct, none is found. In what, then, consists Bryan’s “dictatorialness,” or “bossism”? It consists in this—Bryan usually succeeds, the Senator habitually fails in convincing his audience. That’s the rub.

“Bossism,” the cry now being raised against Bryan—a man who wields no office or other club by which he can compel others to do as he wishes, and whose only weapon is his written and spoken word—“bossism” under such circumstances is a cry that loudly proclaims the intellectual bankruptcy back of the lips that utter it.

Among the few Senators in Washington whose intellect deserves admiration is the Maryland Senator. Senator Rayner’s speeches are logical, from his premises; coherent; often brilliant. Naturally, the Senator is a thinking man. But his seems to be the fate of Clay and of Webster. Powerful intellects though Clay and Webster were, the presidential bee buzzed both into irrational utterances.

Pity about the Maryland Senator! If he could only throttle that bee now in his

bonnet, he would be the last man to call Bryan a “boss,” however deservedly scathing his arraignment of Bryan might otherwise be; and none more trenchantly than he would ridicule the epithet “Boss.”

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