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EDITORIAL

IT WORKS LIKE “ROLLING OFF A LOG.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

Already are the capitalist papers of the land “fructifying” the well-earned knock-down administered by the workingmen of Haverhill to the Social Democracy at last Tuesday’s municipal election in their city. The *New York Sun* talks of the “end of the reign of Socialism” in Haverhill; the Salem, Mass., *Evening News* speaks of the event as the “death-blow to Socialism.” And so forth and so on. The fact is that what was ended in Haverhill last Tuesday was a capitalist fraud.

It is a well-known fact that the Social Democracy of Messrs. Chase, Carey & Co. was a bogus Socialist affair. It was set up by Democratic politicians for the purpose of luring the workingmen of that city from the Socialist Labor Party with the false pretence of Socialism. The Democracy was willing to get into power under the name of Social Democracy. The scheme worked for a while. The capitalists rubbed their hands with joy. They had found out a way to head off or blanket the Socialist Movement. They referred to their Social Democratic manikins in office in Haverhill as Socialists, boomed the thing along, and quietly enjoyed immunity by means of new armories and other “Socialistic” measures that these “Socialists” provided them with.

But the scheme came to the end of its tether within two years,—much to the mortification of the capitalist political schemers. The truth of the old saying attributed to Lincoln overtook them. The Haverhill workers could not be fooled all the time, and, down came Humpty Dumpty. Arrived at this stage, the capitalist schemers are now trying with wonderful sagacity to derive what profit they can out of the collapse of their scheme. Accordingly, having profited by the thing while it lived, they now seek to profit by its death. To now make out that “Socialism died in Haverhill,” is like the farmer’s using the hide of the dead ox, after he was used for all he was worth while alive.

The Haverhill experience may now suggest a “dead open and shut” game: To set

up a stuffed “Socialism”; deceive every workingman with it so long as he is deceivable; and then when he knocks out the stuffings from the fraud, throw up the capitalist hat with joy at the renewed killing of Socialism. The scheme would work easy, like rolling off a log,—unless....

Yes, unless, it is seen through before it can do much damage.

And that is the hitch that the present capitalist celebrants and mourners (they are now both in one) will assuredly run up against.

The rest the S.L.P. will take care of, encouraged by the Haverhill demonstration of last Tuesday, to count with the impossibility of fooling all the people all the while, as a positive factor in the march of civilization.

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

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