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EDITORIAL

THE SCRAWNY CAT LET OUT.

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THE *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, organ of the Social Democratic party, editorially instructs its partisans to urge the workingmen, in case they cannot be got to vote for Hanford, that they vote not for De Leon. If, insists the *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, the workingmen won't vote for Hanford let them vote for any other gubernatorial candidate, whatever that candidate may be, so he be not De Leon.

This is correct Social Democratic reasoning, and in the correctness thereof lies the scrawny cat that, pushed by events, the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* lets out of the bag.

The Social Democracy maintains that it stands for a principle. The claim is right. There is no organization, political or otherwise, that is not animated by a principle, in other words, that has not a purpose. It often is difficult to ascertain what the purpose of a body is; wild claims and lurid rhetoric frequently conceal the purpose; it is their conduct alone that tells the tale. When, accordingly, the organ of the Social Democratic party declares that the workers, if they cannot vote for its own candidate for governor, should vote for any other, Democratic, Republican or what not, rather than for the candidate of the Socialist Labor Party, the declaration is an admission of the fact that the Social Democracy is nearer akin to the capitalist parties than it is to the Socialist Labor Party.—CORRECT.

And its candidate symbolizes the fact.

Hanford denounced the agitation committee of his union, Typographical Union No. 6, against the *Sun* strike. When a fat salary was attached to the committee and Hanford was made a member thereof, his objections were hushed, and the sluices of his oratory were opened in favor of the said committee.—Capitalists, being grafters on the working class, the grafting labor skate is akin to them.

Hanford has condoned the capitalist practice of “checking off” the dues by quickly

submitting to the nefarious act being practised upon himself. Capitalists need the practice so as to dominate the union, the labor skate who aids them therein is no distant relative.

Hanford, although announced as a speaker at the Cooper Union meeting that was to denounce the sell out of Labor to Hanna and Hannaism, known as the Civic Federation, absconded. Though looked for everywhere, could not be found.—Capitalists are not safe unless they can humbug the working class; the Civic Federation is an ideal means for humbugging; the labor skate who will swallow his voice when the swindle should be exposed is a close relative of Brother Capital.

Moreover, Hanford, as a Social Democrat, sits in council with the Social Democrat, John C. Smith, who in 1900 ran in the Worcester, Mass., district on both the Social Democratic and the regular Democratic party tickets;

He sits in council with the Social Democrat, G.A. Hoehn, of St. Louis, who joined the deputy sheriffs of St. Louis during the street car strikes of 1900;

He sits in council with the Social Democrats of the municipal government of Brockton, Mass., who in 1900 voted franchises to private corporations, free gratis and for nothing;

He sits in council with the Social Democrat, Morris Eichmann, who, in the spring of 1902, ran in West Hoboken on the Democratic, the Republican and the “Citizens’” tickets;

He sits in council with the Social Democrats, Andrew Holmes, of Peekskill, N.Y.; Edward Staub, of Syracuse, N.Y.; Seth Tabor, of Peekskill, N.Y.; Everett and King, of San Francisco; James F. Carey, of Haverhill, Mass., and a score of others, who have run even up to this year on the Democratic or Republican ticket, or have done the dirty work of the capitalist class, or are capitalist political placemen.

All this is matter of official record. Eminently logical, accordingly, is the Social Democratic reasoning that indicates the fact that the Social Democracy is closer to the parties of the capitalist class than it is to the Socialist Labor Party. Democrats will urge the workingmen to vote for the Republican party, and Republicans will urge the workingmen to vote for the Democratic party rather than vote for the Socialist Labor Party. That the Social Democratic party, like the old capitalist parties, should urge the

workingmen to rather support the capitalist parties than to support the Socialist Labor Party is an act of prime significance. Were the Social Democracy capable of a manly act, its pronouncement would be pronounced a “frank admission.” Being what it is, its act is a scrawny cat that its tremulous hands could no longer keep in the bag.

For the same reason that the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* says to the workers: “If you cannot vote for Hanford, vote for any capitalist candidate, but not for De Leon,” the Socialist Labor Party says to the workers:

“If you cannot vote for De Leon, then don’t waste your time picking out a candidate from the capitalist side of the line; take up any—Hanford as soon as any other; it is only a choice of rotten apples.”

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