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EDITORIAL

THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**H**OW can there be a fellowship between light and darkness!”—thus exclaims the distressed *Evening Post* at the masterstroke of Tammany Hall in taking up the two Democrats, Grout and Fornes of the Fusion ticket for the Tammany ticket too.

This is the identical *Evening Post* which, together with the rest of its ilk, has been giving “good advice” to the Socialists of this and other countries to the “practical” and fuse with bourgeois radicals.

“But, oh!” that *Evening Post* will exclaim in answer, “Socialism is a utopia, it is impossible; when I suggest fusion with bourgeois radicals it is for the sake of rendering practical and practicable whatever there may be good in Socialism.”

Indeed? Socialism is a utopia and unattainable? Is it unattainable to reach a social order, where the worker shall enjoy the product of his labor? Is it a utopia to expect that the plundered working class will finally get tired of being plundered, and will finally perceive that it can put an end to capitalist misrule? Is that such a utopia, and is the end so unattainable that it must be given up for bourgeois radical court-plasters and salves? Well, say it is. Say, for the sake of argument, that Socialism is unattainable. What would the inevitable conclusion be?

The inevitable conclusion would be that society is a hopeless pigsty. The inevitable conclusion would be that popular insecurity of existence can not be abolished. And the further conclusion would follow that political corruption, together with the “graft” that Tammany Hall is charged with, are unavoidable. If Capitalism can not be overthrown to make room for Socialism, then there is nothing left for the human race but to live on the principle of “Do others or you will be done by them.” In short, political purity would be impossible.

Soon as placed under the scalpel, the *Evening Post* position and not Socialism,

leaps to sight as the real utopia—and what a utopia that is none realize better today than the visionaries, who took stock in “anti-graft,” and now find by the conduct of both the Republican Seth Low and his Democratic running mates on the Fusion ticket that all these “purists” are tumbling heels over head after graft:—Low, fearful lest the Tammany move deprive him of his expected graft; Grout and Fornes anxious to make their graft purposes certain. Of all wild-eyed, wild-cat, scatter-brained utopias, the wildest-eyed{,} the wildest-catted{,} the most scatter-brained is that of expecting to see the plant of political purity sprouting out of the dung-heap of capitalist immorality.

No decent man, if he is intelligent, no intelligent man{,} if he is decent will venture to deny the capitalist system is the modern Desolation of Abomination; none can deny that Socialism would be a Paradise. “Acts,” says the great moralist and striver of our own generation, “may be forgiven: not even God can forgive the hanger-back.” The lover of his kind and his country will ACT for Socialism; unpardonable, however, is he who HANGS BACK; doubly guilty is the hanger-back who finds his account in the mire of existing conditions, rather than act for the “utopia” of Socialism.

There is no fellowship possible between light and darkness. Hence the fellowship of the capitalist politicians marks them of one kin; hence also the uncompromising hostility of the Socialist Labor Party for the whole pack.

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