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EDITORIAL

“UNITED WE FALL; DIVIDED WE STAND.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

IMAGINE some innocent traveler from Mars landing in Chicago during the session of the Republican national convention. Imagine him taking up a copy of the Republican platform which opens with shouts of general praise for the record of the Republican party as the Nation’s savior, and closes more specifically with an arraignment of the Democratic party as the Nation’s Evil Genius. Imagine him thereupon listening to the speech of the permanent chairman of the convention, Senator HENRY CABOT LODGE. Imagine him closely following the chairman’s words as, link by link, he framed his argument to prove that national prosperity, national order, national happiness, national safety within and without, “religion,” “the family,” etc., etc. depend wholly, exclusively upon the success of the Republican and the defeat of the Democratic party, whose very existence is a menace to all the above good things. Imagine that—what must the conclusion be that would inevitably take shape in our innocent traveler’s mind?

He would conclude that the supreme effort of such an extract of religiousness, of patriotism, of goodness, of abnegation, and of intrepidity in the Nation’s behalf must be utterly to destroy that bad thing, the Democratic party; to tear it up, branch and root; to pass the plow through every inch of ground that such an evil tree ever occupied; to re-manure the soil thus plowed with Republican manure; to seek to obliterate every vestige of the evil growth.

Exactly the opposite is the fact.

The tactical motto that wisely guides the Republican party, as it guides the Democratic, is: **United we fall; divided we stand.**

No greater calamity could befall either the Republican or the Democratic party than the disappearance of either from the field.

With only one of them in the field, the cat would be out of the bag. Their actual

identity would be disclosed. To-day, the stockholders of the Plunderbund, by dividing into two parties that seem to aim at each other's destruction, can keep the people in false gaze. Each acts for the other like the red rag with which a fellow bull-fighter draws the attention of {the} angry bull from his hard-pressed companion.

Divided into two, if necessary, more than two parties, Plunderbund stands; united into one, its downfall would be instantaneous.

It is not the Republican party that will destroy the Democratic. It is not the Democratic party that will destroy the Republican. If either should accidentally gather so much strength as to endanger the other's life, it would quickly come to the rescue and set the weakling back upon its feet. The funds of the identical robber burgs, named Trusts, now flow through underground channels to water the roots of both, and keep their poison flowers in bloom.

The Republican party will never destroy the Democratic. The death-bed of the Democratic will be the death-bed of the Republican party also, “simultaneously and at once.”

What will that death-bed be?

It will be the Appomattox of this generation, whither and into which the consolidated Socialist forces of the land, organized in class conscious political as well as industrial battalions, will have driven the two, along with all other political side shows of capitalism.

On that day the first part of the Rep-Dem motto, **united we fall**, will be proven as true by the Social Revolution, as they themselves are now proving true the second part of their motto, **divided we stand**.

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

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