

EDITORIAL

THE SAN FRANCISCO DROMIOS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE municipal contest of this year in San Francisco has produced a by-play that, by all means, should be mounted on the political stage of the country. It should be named "The San Francisco Dromios." While the old parties are carrying on their regulation fray, there is going on, in a corner, a "fierce contest." It is the contest of the "Kangaroo Socialist" party and a "Union Labor" party that has just sprung up, life having been breathed into its nostrils by the "endorsement of a large number of Unions." These two parties are the Dromios. They can't tell each other apart; nor can anybody else. In their utter Dromio likeness, while trying to lambaste each other they are lambasting themselves in a way that makes the fur fly. And herein lies the instructiveness of the spectacle.

Leading men in the "Union Labor" party are gentlemen who earned considerable distinction as organizers of Republican clubs; leading men in the "Kangaroo Socialist" party are gentlemen who have earned considerable distinction as beggars and accepters of political jobs from capitalist parties. No two political faces can be more alike; if they are not "like two peas," still they surely are alike enough to be mistaken for each other.

No doubt it is a crime for men claiming to be in and of the camp of Labor to organize political bodies of a party that fleeces the workingman. The crime consists in aiding and abetting the fleecing. And the fleecing is aided and abetted because such conduct tends to obliterate and has the direct effect of obliterating the line that separates the working from the fleecing class. With the obliteration of that line the workers fall an easy prey to the thousand and one lures that capitalist politics holds out to switch their fleeced workingmen from the direct forthright.

But for the identical reason, it is likewise a crime for men claiming to be in and of the camp of Labor to beg and accept political jobs from a party that fleeces the workers. The crime consists there too in aiding and abetting the fleecing. And there too the fleecing is aided and abetted because such conduct positively blurs the line

of demarkation between the workingman and his fleecer. With the blurring of that line the workers can not escape falling a prey to the insidious lures which capitalist politics holds out to labor's undoing.

Both acts are crimes; both acts are reducible to "corruption;" both acts spring from self-seeking minds that try to ride the Labor vote: both acts redound to the direct injury of the working class.

While at this extremity of the country, here in New York, the spectacle is seen of two capitalist Dromios—the Tammany and the Republican parties—exposing and condemning each other, and proving each other's unfitness to represent the people, at the other extremity, in San Francisco, the spectacle is seen of two lackeys-of-capitalism Dromios—the Kangaroo and the "Union Labor" parties—equally exposing, equally condemning and proving with equal conclusiveness each other's criminality in the camp of Labor.

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

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