

EDITORIAL

## THE MILLENNIUM SPRUNG A LEAK.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**J**UDGE GAYNOR'S letter to the distinguished gentlemen who wrote to him urging his acceptance of the Mayoralty nomination, together with the letter of these to him, justifies the conclusion that the millennium has sprung a leak.

Politics and political parties are founded upon economic interests. So, at least, run the uniform teachings of social science, likewise of everyday experience. Where there is more than one political party the conclusion is inevitable that there must be more than one set of economic interests, and that these are hostile to each other. Of course, each political party claims, and each with sincerity, that its victory, which would mean the victory of its specific economic interests, would result to the benefit of the people. So, for instance, the Socialist Labor Party makes no bones of the fact that the interests it represents are exclusively the economic interests of the proletariat, and that its triumph would mean the triumph of the proletariat, the rout of the capitalist class, and, consequently, the emancipation of man. But society is entering upon a new stage—at least to judge from the correspondence between Judge Gaynor and the committee which urges him to run for Mayor.

Both the Judge and the committeemen are stepping admittedly upon the political field. Judged by the ordinary standard, one would say that the economic interests of a prospective candidate, who is the trustee of a vast estate, from which even his fees are huge, and thereby allow an insight into the magnitude of the wealth that the owners of the estate absorb unto themselves,—one would judge that the economic interests of such a candidate, together with the economic interests of the bankers, manufacturers, and merchant princes who make up the bulk of the committee, are the determining factors of the political aims of committee and candidate combined. Not at all.

Neither the candidate nor the committee have any such exclusive aims in view. Their aim is the disinterested one of “uplifting the moral tone of our city.”

Those there are who may say: “Politicians, however sordid, all talk that way.” True. But in this instance there is a radical difference. The committee, in this instance, jointly with its candidate, announce they are ready to accept the endorsement of any political party. And they are not vague, either, in their words. They expressly mention the Republican and the Tammany machine. In such connection the word politics acquires a new meaning—a purely millennial. Not the lion and the lamb, but the Tiger and its Lambkins are to lie down together, and a childlike Judge is to lead them.

Hosanna!

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

Uploaded by Donna Bills, October 2010

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