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EDITORIAL

GAYNOR NOMINATED.

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“**T**HE government of New York city is a highly complex legal machine with all sorts of legal limitations and checks, and even the most fit could not enter upon it without misgivings and anxiety”—these are the words with which Judge Gaynor, the Democratic-Independent candidate for Mayor opens his campaign.

The statement is correct. And the correctness thereof is a powerful argument for the defeat of the Judge and his own ticket, from top to bottom, together with the whole ticket of his Republican-Fusion opponent, incidentally also for wiping out of existence the ticket of the Bogus Socialist party.

New York, the metropolitan city of the land, presents the type of political, or capitalist government—national, state and municipal. What is true of New York City is typical of capitalist, or political government. What Judge Gaynor says of the government of our city is a flashlight that illumines political government generally.

Political government is bound to be “a highly complex legal machinery.” Apart from its primal purpose to keep the ruled class under; apart from its secondary purpose to act as a breakwater against the flood of legislation that is bound to set in and that is hostile to ruling Interests;—apart from these two purposes, which sufficiently render it complicated, political government has the further purpose of performing the “egg dance” among the mutually warring eggs of the rulers themselves; it has the arduous purpose of reconciling the conflicting interests among the rulers themselves, who, though at one in making a common front against the proletariat, are, by the very law of their existence, engaged in a war of mutual extermination. The fact appears on the national stage in Panama Canal, tariff and finance feuds; it appears on the state stage in canals, insurance and charities broils; and, despite all non-partisan pretensions to the contrary notwithstanding, we see it

to-day appear glaringly in traction and subway quarrels on the municipal stage. Capitalism spells War. No wonder the legal machine to keep these snorting wild horses in harness is complex; still less wonder that none who venture upon it can contemplate the task of holding the ribbons without “misgivings and anxiety.” It follows that he who does undertake the task, and thereby proposes to continue and uphold the impossible social system that breeds such a task, is either foolhardy, or a fool, without the hardy. Such a man pronounces sentence upon his own fitness, along with the fitness of his own and all other parties and candidates who emulate him.

But Judge Gaynor’s sound words pronounce sentence also upon the Bogus Socialist party concern of pure and simple politicianism. For the identical reason that fool or fool-hardy is the endeavor of the Interests to keep order in and continue the system of the political government, the so-called Socialist party deserves naught but contempt. A party flying the colors of Socialism in America, and whose political-agitational efforts (instead of centering upon the education necessary to organize the useful labor of the land so as to put down the Political and raise the Industrial Government) have no thought other than how to wheedle votes for political candidates—such a party is animated by the spirit of carrion-crow. The carrion-crow knows it can not win the battle: it is satisfied to feast upon the corpses.

There is only one ticket in the field whom Judge Gaynor’s words not only pronounce no sentence upon, but unconsciously justifies. It is the ticket of the Socialist Labor Party, headed by James T. Hunter, and surmounted by the Uplifted Arm and Hammer. Only from that ticket radiates the announcement that the “highly complex legal machine” of Political Government can be sooner ended than mended, and must be Hammered on the head. Only from that ticket emanates the agitation and education that can and will materialize in the Industrial Organization that will do the Hammering. Only that ticket is neither fool, nor fool-hardy, nor yet carrion-crow.

Judge Gaynor’s opening campaign words utter a wail—a wail that is the funeral dirge of capitalist politicianism and of the politicianism of Bogus Socialism—a wail, however, that translates itself in S.L.P. ears throughout the land into clear notes of S.L.P. assured victory, eventually, if not sooner.

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

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