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EDITORIAL

BRYAN'S EQUESTRIANISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE last, but not the least of the thirteen, questions, issued by William Jennings Bryan to the Democratic candidates for the Presidential nomination, is:

“Do you endorse the labor planks of 1908, strict regulation of railroads, the Aldrich currency scheme, asset currency in any form, establishment of a central bank and a law compelling banks to insure depositors?”

When the identical questions, or questions upon the identical subjects, are propounded by Mr. Bryan's pet foes, the “denizens of Lombard and Wall Streets,” the act has no particular significance. Everybody knows that the “denizens of Lombard and Wall Streets,” the Top-Capitalists in short, are in politics for what there is in it for themselves. Their backing of banking laws to protect depositors and regulations of railroad rates and “labor planks” is what may be termed “pardonable political hypocrisy.” Nobody takes such things seriously, and he who does gets no more than “what's coming to him.” 'Tis otherwise, however, when the identical performance is indulged in by a paladin of the “common people.”

When Bryan holds language indicative of the belief that, if railroad rates are regulated, the under-paid, over-worked and wholesale-slaughtered railroad proletariat will be any better off; or that bank regulations for the protection of depositors concern the from-hand-to-mouth living wage slaves who know the inside of a bank only as builders and repairers of the same; or that any financial scheme, whether Aldrich's or Bryan's, will in the slightest raise the price of labor-power (wages) in the labor market;—when a William Jennings Bryan holds language indicative of the belief that such issues as he propounds to his fellow Democrats are the vital issues to the workers the man exhibits himself riding horseback with his face to the horse's tail.

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