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EDITORIAL

TAMMANY IN THE MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE claim of Tammany is that it is democratic—not democratic merely as a wing of the Democratic party, not democratic even in the sense of democratic methods, but democratic in the sense of being the representative of the masses, of the workers. While all the other bourgeois parties make a pretence of being “friends of Labor,” Tammany has made friendship of Labor, of the masses a special specialty. The designation of Edward E. McCall for candidate for Mayor, and the manner of the designation, amount to a tearing of the mask off its face by Tammany itself.

The building of the Subways presents itself to the Plutocracy, not as a great public improvement, but as the opportunity to avail itself of an evil—congestion—that has bred a public need, whereby to acquire a veritable Principality. Those in whose hands the Subways fall will be financial potentates who will eclipse Rockefeller, or the Morgan syndicate. Not only will they be masters of cash, they will be masters, directly, of men, indeed of the world’s second city. Such a prospect rent Financierdom in twain. Its members seeing that all could not mount the princely throne split into two cabals, each cabal a veritable Pretender, and each pretender gathering around itself such other Interests, real estate, for instance, as it could wheedle into its own camp. John Purroy Mitchel became the active representative of one camp’s cabal, Edward E. McCall of the other. Mitchel having been nominated by the camp of one cabal, Tammany took the representative of t’other—McCall.

The method by which the Tammany candidate was chosen adds point to the event. The Tammany convention has not yet met; it will meet, but that is only a matter of formality. The decisive designation of McCall by the Tammany City Committee is recognized as a nomination, which the “democratic” Tammany con-

vention will ratify humbly, submissively, meekly, as a crowning illustration of “democratic methods.”

Mitchel vs. McCall, McCall vs. Mitchel, that is the issue upon which the coterie of the Ruling Class has agreed upon for the pending municipal campaign—Mitchel’s victory meaning the seizure of the Principality by one set of conspirators, McCall’s victory meaning the seizure of the Principality by another set, with the masses of the voters officiating on election day as food for politicians’ cannon, and, after election, as sheep for the politicians’ shears.

Never yet has Tammany been so brazen. This is the first time when its nominee for Mayor is not a mask or fence; it is the first time when its bid for support is made openly to the Plutocracy.

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