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EDITORIAL

OUTSPOKEN HEARST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MR. HEARST deserves credit for having sounded the first clear note in the Mayoralty election yet sounded by the several clans of capitalism that are gathering and manoeuvring for the fray. Mr. Hearst sounded that note in his speech last Friday before the County Committee of the Independence League, and he has since repeated the note with emphasis.

What note was that?

“The next Mayor must be a man able to conduct the biggest business corporation in the world to the satisfaction and for the benefit of the stockholders.”

By the “biggest business corporation in the world” evidently the City is meant. Mr. Hearst is not a man of many words. He speaks rarely. When he speaks he speaks not long. His words are carefully chosen. When Mr. Hearst used the term “corporation” as applicable to the City he used it deliberately, technically.

The corporation is a creation of capitalist society, and will die with capitalism. The corporation is a gathering of those who have, and who gather in order to have some more. The corporators came with plunder, for plunder’s sake. The corporation is headed by idlers; dummy directors. The officers (sic) of the corporation are filled with sinecurists who derive the emoluments, and absorb the glory—upon the bended backs of those who really do the work.

The strictly business corporation—the shoe, cloth, hat, railroad, etc., corporation—has, as a matter of course, transferred its spirit to the political corporation. Accordingly, the City of New York is run by business principles that obtain in regular business corporations. The one and the other is run in the interest and for the benefit of the stockholders. In a shoemaking corporation the stockholders are the money bags, not the workingmen. Ditto, ditto in a political corporation.

Mr. Hearst wants a Mayor who will run the City the way he runs his private business. All the other capitalist politicians want the same thing. The difference between them and Mr. Hearst is that he says what he means, while the others raise dust over the issue.

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