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EDITORIAL

A COMICAL DISTRESS.

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THE San Francisco, Cal., *Advance*, a Kangaroo Social Democratic organ, living in a section of the country where a good deal of Spanish still pervades the atmosphere, must be appreciating the fullness of the homely truth and truthful homeliness of the Spanish adage regarding the troubles of the man who tries to extricate himself from the tangle of a shirt eleven yards long that he has got himself into. The “eleven-yard shirt” in this instance is the Kangaroo “Trades Union attitude,” to which fully as many more yards are added by the recent San Francisco Trades Union independent political party, that left the Kangaroo brigade of San Francisco “borers from within” beached like a clam at low tide, after its committee of five had been contemptuously allowed to “warm the chairs in the gallery.” The squirmings of the *Advance* in its attempt to disentangle itself are odd to witness: it is the man in the “eleven-yard shirt” over again, getting his legs caught, tumbling, trying to rise, tumbling again and finally presenting the picture of a bundle of anatomy and dry goods all of a heap.

The *Advance* argues that the San Francisco independent Trades Union Party movement was “a class struggle manifestation” and “brought out in sharpest lines the antagonism of interests between the capitalists and the workingmen.” It then proceeds to admit that all this “class struggle manifestation,” together with the “sharp lines antagonism,” etc., etc., was captured by and became a catspaw for the Republican Party. And it finally philosophizes that such a mischance was simply the result of the Kangaroos not having “bored from within” for a sufficient length of time and with sufficient intensity: If, it declares, the Kangs had only started in early and kept it up long enough, then, oh, then, “despite all conservative leaders” in the pure and simple unions the issue would have been a great “Socialist victory.”—What a succession of bumpety-bumpety-bumps!

It is undeniable that such a thing is possible as the uprising of a labor organization, prompted originally by clearly felt class antagonisms, being led into the camp of the very class it meant to hit, and thus being captured by the very foe it meant to combat. It is furthermore undeniable that hardly a stirring, that periodically manifests itself in the ranks of the rank and file proletariat, but falls within the category of a class-prompting: at the same time undeniable is the fact that all these promptings, without exception, are led into the ground, are betrayed to the enemy, by the “conservative leaders” of pure and simple. The question, accordingly, resolves itself into this: How to open the eyes of the rank and file of the Working Class so as to enable them to see the “conservative leaders” in their true light, to know them for what they are, to treat them as the traitors they be? This question the Kangaroo Social Democratic *Advance* answers with: “Some more, some longer, some intenser ‘boring from within.’” In other words, the eyes of the rank and file are to be opened, their confidence is to be broken in their “conservative leaders” by, what?—by an intenser application of the Kangaroo plan, the key to which is the declaration of their own National Convention that the enormities into which these identical “conservative leaders” lead the rank and file into are “a noble waging of the class struggle!” The rank and file are to be weaned from their traditional betrayers by, what?—by the Kangaroo applause of these identical betrayers, such applause being the condition precedent and the condition subsequent for the tolerance of the Kangaroo by the “conservative leaders” in the Hanna-Gompers Trades Union Movement!

Really, in the act of lashing the crooked Kangaroo, alias “Multi-Coca,” alias “Social Democratic,” alias “Pandemonium Socialist,” alias “Public Ownership,” alias “Socialist” Party man, one often feels like staying his striking arm: It is so hard to tell where Kangaroo imbecility ends, and Kangaroo crookedness begins.

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