

EDITORIAL

## THE S.P. IN THE MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE *Message to Workmen*, with which the Socialist party appears in our pending municipal campaign, is being delivered in a 9½ by 6 leaflet.

Among the passages in the *Message* two are typical:

1st. “How much longer will we permit an army of middlemen to stand between ourselves and the food producers?”—Even the *Appeal to Reason* got over confusing “the middleman” with “the middle class.” It finally got through the thick wool and heavy skull of even the “Appeal” that, while the “middle class” is a useless factor in the land, an atrophied element in the land’s make-up, the function of the “middleman,” on the contrary is a useful one in the land’s economy, it being impossible, without the middleman, for labor to be sub-divided to the point that co-operative production demands. Socialism will abolish the capitalist class, Top and Middle; the functions of the middleman, never: that function is productive.

2nd. “By and through the municipality! This is the only way the workmen can secure for themselves a healthier life, a better life.”—One time that may have been so: now no longer. The municipality is dominated by the State; and State and Municipality are dominated by economic conditions that are Nationwide, and the overthrow of which demands the overthrow of capitalism.

The combined forces of Fusion and Tammany can want nothing better than, while they themselves are indulging the municipal sport of scratching out each the other’s eyes over the Subways, to have the Working Class of the city waste its time listening to “Messages” that amount to a hypodermic injection of opium, intended to pilfer their vote from them.

The *Message* closes with a notice of where those who “want further information about the Socialist party” can find what they want.

What further information can the most inquisitive codger want than what the *Message* gives him?—Information and to spare.

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