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EDITORIAL

GETTING READY FOR THE CIRCUS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE clamor of the Democratic press of this city on the possible nomination of Sheldon as the running mate of Odell on the Republican ticket, foreshadows the sort of a circus in store for the voters of this State in the coming election.

The Democratic outcry against Sheldon is on his corporation record. In big scare lines the public is informed that Sheldon is:

Treasurer of the North American Company,
A director of the Cincinnati Edison Electric Company,
A director of the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company,
A director of the Milwaukee Light, Heat and Traction Company,
A director of the Central Oil Company,
Second Vice-President of the City Trust Company,
A director of the Consolidated Rubber Tire Company,
A director of the New Amsterdam Casualty Company,
A director of the Panama Canal Company of America,
A director of the Republic Iron and Steel Company,
A director of the Bag and Paper Company.

Having enumerated all the corporations in which Sheldon is known to be a leading figure, as though these were so many sins to the credit of Sheldon, these Democratic papers then proceed to “point with pride” to the “distinguished citizens” who appear on the roll of Democratic delegates to the State convention. Surely, if a hand in corporations is a disqualification, as it certainly should be, for an office presumed to be of, for and by the people, then it must follow that “distinguished citizenship” in Democratic estimation should be marked at least with just the reverse of such corporation affiliation. And this is just what the Democratic outcry means to suggest,

but the suggestion is a suggestion of a falsehood. From J. Edward Simmons down to Randolph Guggenheim everyone of the “distinguished citizens” picked out to attend the Democratic convention got his arms steeped up to his elbows in corporations, and, what is more, not a few of them, notably J. Edward Simmons, are fellow directors with Sheldon in a number of corporations!

Thus the scenes are being fixed for the great annual circus. Republicans will point with horror at Democrats, and Democrats will point with horror at Republicans, and the horses will be lashed to run their best, and the clown papers will halloo,—and the working class will be asked to foot the bill.

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