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EDITORIAL

That Roaring Farce.

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The George candidacy for Mayor has, since the original Knox plan went to pieces upon Tammany's stubborn refusal to nominate the latter, developed into a veritable clown episode in this year's municipal political drama of New York.

Directly and indirectly, the heads of the Platt Republican, Citizens' Union and Tammany machines, even their nominees, are all virtually partners in the trolley corporations of Brooklyn, and in large capitalist interests. Whichever wins, none loses: the success of one set of stock holders is the success of all, however hostile they might demean themselves on the stump. So far there would be nothing new in this campaign, at least no roaring farce episode. Where and when does that come in?

Though Tracy, Sheehan and Low are partners in Brooklyn trolleys, and in that way close friends, there is among them, as often among the closest of partners, some minor rivalries. Each has his own political pride, and seeks to satisfy it, all the more as he can do so without running any material risk. Hence, politically, a fierce fight has broken out among them, particularly between Platt and Seth Low. The pride of each is enlisted. They have insulted each other's organizations; their respective followers have pelted one another with abuse. It is not a matter of lucre; that question is safe; it is a matter of personal pride with Low to beat Platt, and with Platt to beat Low. These are the conditions under which the roaring farce sprang up.

Platt, by far the shrewdest political manipulator, promptly hit upon a plan. It was to raise such a dust as to frighten Low's capitalist followers away. How Platt executed his plan earns for him the palm of political humbugging. With the assistance of Tom Johnson, a direct partner of Tracy's in the Brooklyn trolley business, the plan has been pushed through smoothly. George had become disengaged since Knox' failure, and he is the pensioner of Tom Johnson. Platt, Tracy and Johnson put their heads together. Net result—George was set up. Since then, hardly able to contain their laughter, the Platt papers have been printing columns upon columns of cock and bull stories about "landslides" for George, they packed with Republican office-holders the

meeting at Cooper Union last Tuesday, they set in circulation the bizzarrest notions about George's "power to catch votes," while in fact his characteristic in that respect is an unrivaled power to lose votes—in short, no noise is spared to frighten the Low following with the notion that, if he does not withdraw, George will be elected, and as these gentlemen are not expected to know that George is perfectly "safe," being the lackey of Tom Johnson, the partner of Tracy & Co., their deception is expected to be complete.

Thus George is furnishing the clown episode to this year's political play. The false pretences of the several capitalist parties—Republican, Citizens' Union and Tammany—in their efforts to again deceive the working class out of their votes is the tragic side of the play, fit to enrage the serious, but hardly is one's indignation started when the hired clown George turns up, and, with the dust raised for him by Platt, forces a smile, a laugh, aye, a roar even from the most serious.

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