

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 114.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1904.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

LAWSON'S STANDARD OIL EXPOSE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FOR the past four months the pen of Thomas W. Lawson, “the uncrowned King of State Street” (the Wall street of Boston), has been very busy. In a series of biting, vigorous and able articles, misnamed “Frenzied Finance” (as there is no frenzy displayed, except by Lawson himself) he has been relentlessly exposing the coldly-calculated methods of the Standard Oil Company in many fields of modern life. Plainly, Lawson writes from no altruistic or ideal motives. A capitalist stock manipulator of considerable proportions and braggadocio, he was beaten, in the flotation of the Amalgamated Copper Company, at his own game, by men who played that game in a manner that left even the consummately clever Lawson material for instruction and reflection. Lawson, however, refused to take experience in lieu of profits. The result is that he is now retailing, or, as he terms it, “forcing restitution for the victims of Amalgamated,” of which he is, financially, the biggest, by writing this series of articles.

But Lawson's motives are neither here nor there, just at present. The fact is that these articles are an invaluable contribution to the so-called “literature of exposure,” which is fast becoming the source of other literatures, especially those treating of modern sociology and economics. As a consequence, these articles are not to be lightly regarded. Especially is the matter accompanying the article in the November issue of *Everybody's Magazine* of great timeliness and importance, though, like its predecessors, sensational to a high degree. Just at a time when the Democrats are exposing the President's use of the Anti-trust law to force the trusts to contribute to his election, Lawson makes the bold declaration that the Standard Oil Company used its immense resources and power to blacklist Roosevelt and dictate the nomination of Parker, truly a well-timed political juxtaposition!

There can be no doubt that Lawson, having moved within the penetralia of the

Standard Oil Company, had abundant opportunity to become familiar with the sentiments and schemes of the men dominating it. Lawson, therefore, knows whereof he writes. Consequently, there can be little room to question his statements regarding the dictation of the nomination of Parker by the greatest trust in existence. But, admitting all that, where is the workingman so foolish as to jump out of the Parker frying pan into the Roosevelt fire, because of these statements? Lives there a workingman so blind that he cannot see—even by the searchlight of the evidence furnished by the economic and political fights of these competing capitalists—that the trusts dominate both Parker and Roosevelt, and no matter which wins, he loses? Such a workingman is in a worse plight than the men who cannot get an idea into their heads without having a surgical operation performed.

It ought to be apparent to every workingman that instead of jumping out of the Parker frying pan into the Roosevelt fire, he should jump onto the terra firma of the Socialist Labor Party, there to give the frying pan and the fire one good extinguishing kick, by voting for the social ownership of capital, the only thing that will destroy the domination of the trusts and free our class—the working class—and the institutions of the country, from dependence on them.

Workingmen, be not the shuttlecocks of the capitalists, batted back and forth from one party to the other in their game of politics. Be men. Stand erect, and, so standing, plant your feet on the Lawsons and the Standard Oil, and their puppets, Roosevelt and Parker. Vote for the destruction of the trusts through the social ownership of capital, by voting the ticket of the Socialist Labor Party, headed by Corregan and Cox!

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

Uploaded July 2007

slpns@slp.org