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EDITORIAL

A MUZZLE NEEDED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ROOSEVELT ought to muzzle Lawson.¹ His is a case of “save me from my friend”. In a newspaper reiteration of his magazine article declaring that the nomination of Parker² was dictated by “Standard Oil”, Lawson says:

“The phase of the campaign which confuses the public is this: They see Roosevelt getting help from Wall street, and they say it must be Standard Oil, but it is not. It is Morgan, the always deadly foe of ‘Standard Oil.’”

Lawson, in thus making clear that Roosevelt is no less a trust candidate than Parker, is doing his friend an injurious turn. It stands to reason that Morgan would not give the aid of Wall street to Roosevelt, were there not a “community of interests” between them. Since such is a reasonable inference, backed up by everyday political and economic knowledge, what becomes of Lawson’s fine picture of Roosevelt, the President of such sterling personal independence as “to knock” Standard Oil frequently and severely from a pure sense of duty, regardless of all other considerations and influences? It goes to smash, and Roosevelt lines up with Parker, as a puppet in the political struggle of conflicting trust interests.

Whether Roosevelt muzzles Lawson or not—the damage is done! Any workingman who may have been tempted to cast his vote for Roosevelt instead of Parker, by Lawson’s magazine revelations, will now see that to vote for either is to choose between two rotten trust eggs. If he is sensible, he will not so vote, but give the capitalist interests that Parker and Roosevelt both represent, a sound rebuke by investigating the principles and voting the ticket of the Socialist Labor Party, headed by Corregan and Cox—a party that stands for the overthrow of capitalism

¹ [Thomas W. Lawson (1857–1925). [Click here for biographical sketch.](#)]

² [Alton Brooks Parker (May 14, 1852 - May 10, 1926) [Click here for a biographical sketch.](#)]

and its use of political institutions for class ends.

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

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slpns@slp.org