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EDITORIAL

THE LAW OF THE FUNNEL.

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JUDGE O'Sullivan, the case being squarely put before him, gave it as his judicially deliberate opinion that the action of the insurance officials, in appropriating funds of the company for campaign donations, was larceny. It came under all the categories that go to constitute the crime. Certain unavoidable conclusions follow:—

The \$75,000 and the \$48,000 given to Cornelius N. Bliss and subsequently to George Cortelyou was stolen goods. The law of this and other States makes the receiving, knowingly, of stolen goods, a penal offence, along with the original thief himself. Did Cornelius N. Bliss and George Cortelyou know that the moneys which they were receiving was stolen goods? They did. If the insurance officials had gone around among the voters and personally distributed the moneys which they larcenied from the company, the voters would likewise have been receivers of stolen goods, and they would have received them as directly from the original thief as did Messrs. Bliss and Cortelyou. Yet the voters would not have been guilty. They did not know, they could not know, that the moneys distributed among them were stolen goods. They were justified in the presumption that the distributors of the said moneys had gone down into their own pockets, and, moved by that patriotic abnegation that causes the capitalist to sacrifice himself upon the altars of his country, had dug deep into their own treasuries, their own hard savings, to save the country by electing the Republican party. As far as these voters are concerned they are free from guilt. Was that the case with Messrs. Bliss and Cortelyou? Far from it. They knew that the moneys were stolen goods. Indeed, they themselves suggested, aye, urged the commission of the larceny by applying to the insurance companies' officials for the companies' funds. The conclusion can not be escaped, from the premises laid down by Judge O'Sullivan, that Messrs. Bliss and Cortelyou were,

knowingly, receivers of stolen goods. Mr. Cortelyou, the receiver of stolen goods in New York, is now in Washington, D.C., in Roosevelt's cabinet. Mr. Cortelyou is, accordingly, a fugitive from the justice of this state. The crime of receiving stolen goods is an extraditable offence. Has Gov. Higgins of New York issued requisition papers?

The question can only evoke laughter. Of course, the Governor of New York who has just throttled the threatened investigation of the banking department, lest his cronies be exposed as criminals, will be the last man to issue requisition papers for the fugitive from justice Cortelyou. And if he did issue requisition papers, is anyone afflicted with such primitive simplicity as to imagine that Roosevelt would honor such papers? that he would refuse Cortelyou a hearing? that he would order a special train to convey the fugitive back to New York? that he would call out a regiment of his precious Rough Riders to man the train and keep servers of writs of habeas corpus from snatching the culprit out of the train? Of course not. Cortelyou would be given a hearing, and some legal fiction, such as that of "infinitesimal recess", would be resorted to in order to keep the fugitive receiver of stolen goods from being delivered "to the outraged majesty of the Law of the State of New York". In short, Cortelyou, the actual criminal and fugitive from justice, would receive all the consideration that was denied to the obviously innocent, and obviously non-fugitives from justice Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone.

There is in the Spanish language an expression—"Ley de embudo", the "law of the funnel"—that might as well be inducted into our own vernacular. The term illustrates the principle of capitalist administration of Law—broad, as one end of the funnel, for the Capitalist Class; narrow, as the other end of the funnel, for the Working Class.

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