

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 330.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

LETTING OUT CATS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is not Col. Roosevelt alone, who, in his headlong Cæsarian course, is “talking out of school” much to the chagrin of that portion of the plutocracy that opposes him. The anti-Roosevelt plutocratic press, in their headlong course to stem the Roosevelt tide, are recklessly doing that which is hard to distinguish from also “talking out of school.”

For instance—

Already when Roosevelt swept Illinois; increasingly so when the dose was repeated in Pennsylvania; but startlingly so when the anti-Roosevelt plutocracy received its Massachusetts and then its Ohio drubbing, its press howled against the “barrel” or “barrels” that were tapped for Roosevelt at the primaries; and simultaneously, in the Senate, a bill was introduced providing for the publicity of the primary election funds. The arguments in favor of the bill and in support of the howls may be condensed in these words:

“Perkins of the Harvester Trust is contributing \$15,000 at a clip for each State. Others are contributing as much, if not more. Who is furnishing the money? Sinister suspicion is aroused. These moneys are not contributions; they are investments. These gifts have an unmistakable taint upon them. The donors are after some gain”; etc., etc.

The question arises, In what social layers are these “contributors” or “investors”? They surely are not of the working class? Who, then, are these wealthy people whose contributions arouse “sinister suspicion” and have “an unmistakable taint upon them”?

To put the question is to answer it.

The contributors to Col. Roosevelt’s primary campaign are flesh of the flesh, and bone of the bone of the contributors to President Taft’s campaign. They are men

who have heretofore contributed to the Republican campaign funds. They are, they can be no otherwise than, “Pillars of Society.” They are our great “Leaders of Moral Uplift”; they are our “Captains of Industry”; they are our “Neys and Sheridans,” to borrow a term from the Marx-demolisher Prof. Skelton; they are the representatives of “Law and Order” and of the “Sanctity of the Family”; they are the “Protectors of the Sacred Rights of Property,” the “Priesthood of Patriotism,” the “Upholders of the Flag.” By characterizing the activity of one set of these eminencies as matter that “arouses sinister suspicion”; by designating their contributions “investments”; by branding the investments with an “unmistakable taint”;—by doing that what is the anti-Roosevelt plutocracy doing but letting out a lot of cats from a twin bag, from the other twin of which the Colonel is letting out another set of felines ?

Colonel Roosevelt is not only a letter out of “cats” himself, he also is cause that the letting out of cats is done by others.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded June 2013

slpns@slp.org