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EDITORIAL

## THE “TRUST SMASHERS.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**he American capitalist politician can double discount any other country's; he can even discount the proverbial Heathen Chinee, who, for ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain, has come down the galleries of history as peculiar. The ways and the tricks of the American capitalist politician are, like all clever things, extremely simple. He follows the tactics of the expert swimmer: “to push on, don't tunnel, but ride the wave.”

The approaching storm of the Social Revolution is beating ahead foam-crested waves that carry the moanings of “Anti-Monopoly,” “Anti-Trust,” and the like inarticulate sounds. These muttered moans, inarticulate tho' they be, the capitalist class instinctively feels bode it no good; instinctively feels are aimed at its very existence. How meet the danger? By raising breast-works against it? Piling sand-bags? Resisting? Not at all! Sharp as steel-traps, possessed of all the cunning that the habitual criminal is gifted with, equipped with the subtle penetration of the professional crook, the capitalist class does not resist, it says, “Me too,”—and SEEKS TO RIDE THE WAVE. Thus, in this country, we have seen “Anti-Monopoly” parties rise that are manned by dupes, but generated by expert monopolists; and thus we find to-day in the ranks of the special “Anti-Trust” wing of the Democratic party—the free silver wing—, men, in the lead, at that, whose main thought next to duping the voters, is to secure possession of controlling stock in some Trust or Monopoly that will assure them affluence at the people's expense.

To the uninitiated, the news must have come like a clap of thunder from a clear sky that no less a “Trust-Smasher” than James K. Jones, of Arkansas, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is deeply interested in a certain Trust of peculiar offensive character to the very farming class that the “Trust-Smashing” Democracy claims to build upon and to come to the rescue of. To the informed the thing is as logical as the presence of mosquitos in the Dismal Swamp.

The Texas Planters' Company is a concern that operates the so-called Round Bale Trust. The Trust owns a certain machine by which cotton is baled in compressed form, thereby saving space and removing other serious inconveniences attached to ordinary bales. The Trust, together with the Company that operates it, presses with special weight upon the small raiser of cotton; one of its effects is to render competition impossible to this small fellow. He has appealed to the Legislature of the State and got a law passed from which he expected relief; but the law was found full of holes, the biggest of all being its "unconstitutionality"; and there is the small cotton-raising farmer of Texas strapped.

Now, then, it is in this very Trust and Company that the Anti-Trust Chairman of the National Committee of the Trust-Smashing Democratic party is interested!

It may be "personal," but he who will not look at the sources of the living of a class, will never understand the meaning of the political slogans of that class. It may not be pleasant to the un-converee to be uncovered, but it is the only safe thing to do for the masses, for the Proletariat. Nor is there any country under the sun whose Proletariat needs keeping its peepers peeled as the Proletariat of this country of ours.

Stand in, and look out!

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