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EDITORIAL

MODERN PARADOXES.

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THE dispatches make two announcements that are true, and yet are robust lies. One reports the opinion of the Hon. Thomas C. Platt on the attitude of the Trusts towards the President, the other reports the sentiments of Mark Hanna's Vice-President Gompers on the miners' strike. These two reports are veritable cameos of up-to-date lying.

The Hon. T.C. Platt denies that the Trusts are contemplating combined action against President Roosevelt. This is true. It is an unnecessary, a superfluous truth. Why should the Trusts wreak vengeance on Roosevelt? Has he done ought against them? To the uninitiated, to the wool-gatherers, he has. To him who has eyes to see he has not. The upas tree is not imperiled if some of its fruits are pruned or burnt off. Nay, it may even be improved by the process. So the Trust. Merger suits and the like do not, cannot affect the life of the Trust. On the contrary. The notion carefully spread about, that such processes are against the Trust, creates the most favorable atmosphere for the Trust to flourish in. Whatever unfavorable opinion the Trusts may have of Roosevelt, the opinion is not due to his "Trust attitude." His "picturesqueness" is such that no sane man can care to see the helm of State in his hands. Such an opinion of him is general. It is not confined to any one class or set of men. No doubt the Trusts have no use for Roosevelt. But who has? And, as far as his "Trust attitude" is concerned, it is certain that he is a Trust pet. So that when the Hon. Thomas C. Platt denies any rankling hostilities to Roosevelt from the Trust quarter, he speaks truth—but suggests what is false.

And so with Mr. Gompers. It is unquestionable that he is sincere in his wish that the working class empty its pockets for the benefit of the striking anthracite coal miners. And yet here, too, truth is uttered, but falsehood is suggested. The falsehood suggested is that Mr. Gompers is anxious for the welfare of the strikers. The fact is that he is trying

to earn his wages as Hanna’s lieutenant or vice-president. How? Very simply. The longer the strike lasts, all the longer does the market hold out for Gompers’ president’s, Hanna’s, soft coal. The soft coal combine has to contribute towards the strike. The outlay, true enough, is amply made up by the profits realized on the soft coal. Nevertheless, it must never be forgotten that the heaven of the American capitalist is a father-in-lawship over some European duke, count or prince. Now, then, these are dear commodities. The profits on soft coal may be, are large, but they can be made still larger by reducing expenses. Just now one of these “expenses” is the support of the anthracite coal strikers and their labor leaders by the soft coal magnates. Accordingly, it is not for the benefit of the striking miners that Gompers is pleading but for the pockets of his president, Hanna.

Capitalist society breeds paradoxes; as a result it is replete with utterances, that, true as far as they go, are meant to be the slimiest sort of falsehoods to cheat the people.

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