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EDITORIAL

A NEAT SPECIMEN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE anti-trust press is engaged in turning somersaults in its excessive elation over the “victory” gained by Attorney General Hadley in his prosecution of the Standard Oil Co. To have succeeded in compelling Henry H. Rogers to admit the Standard Oil ownership of certain Missouri corporations appears to this press to be the acme of achievement. As a consequence, there is already talk about the State of Missouri confiscating the property of the trust within its confines.

The anti-trust press appears to be like the old Bourbons; incapable of learning. Anti-trust history, especially that dealing with the Standard Oil Company, is full of such “victories,” based on the outspoken testimony of the trust magnates. Nevertheless, there is not a case of trust confiscation by the State, nor an instance of actual trust busting, as a logical sequel of such achievements, on record. On the contrary, the trusts are more firmly grounded and powerful than ever before.

The trusts meet the conditions evolved from the anti-trust agitation in a variety of successful ways; they prolong the legal battle until their less powerful opponents are either bought, worn, or crushed out. When court decisions go against them, they either adjust conditions to meet the nominal requirements of the law, or they ignore the decisions entirely.

The opponents of the trusts have found them strongly entrenched and capable of defying all opposition within the framework of present society. To the scattered forces of competition the trusts present the dove-tailed forces of concentration. Against the puny wealth of small production, the trusts array the colossal, strategic wealth of integralized industry, agriculture, transportation, commerce and banking. Owning and controlling the most important means by which society lives, the trusts also own and control the institutions based on {them}.

Anti-trust agitation can, at most, only retard the development of modern society. It is not only impotent, but unprogressive and reactionary, in that it would revert back to small, and deprive society of the benefits of large, production. Nothing but Socialism, i.e., the democratic ownership and operation of all capital by society, will bust the trusts. Then they will become extinct—disappear. Then, the benefits of large production, that now accrue, in the shape of billion dollar fortunes to the trust magnates, will accrue to society, thus making of the trusts, not a social menace, as at present, but a social blessing instead, to be enjoyed by all.

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