

EDITORIAL

## JUDGE WRIGHT'S OPPORTUNITY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**D**ANIEL WEBSTER'S motto—"The Nation, One and Indivisible"—has stood as the condensation of American loyalty to country.

To this motto the Administration at Washington has just dealt a kick in the stomach, and is following up the initial kick with supplemental ones.

According to the decisions of the Federal Courts, there can be no libel against the United States in the absence of a specific statutory declaration on the subject. There being no statutory declaration on the subject, the United States can not be libeled, and there is no warrant for a libel suit by the United States.

This notwithstanding, the Administration has instituted a libel suit in the District of Columbia in the name of the United States against the Press Publishing Company (*New York World*) on the ground of its allegations of corrupt dealings in Panama. The Administration justifies its conduct with the reasoning that, while it is true that the United States can not bring a libel suit, the principle is "applicable only elsewhere in the Republic," and that—mark this—"sixty four square miles constituting the area known as the District of Colombia are exempt from the application of the principle."

Here we have treason with a vengeance. Nothing short of the dismemberment of a "Nation, one and indivisible"; and what is more, the erection of the District of Columbia into a section of the land with power over the whole; supreme above, and exempt from the laws applicable to the—to the what?—to the "provinces," of course.

If ever there was ground for impeachment, that ground is furnished by Roosevelt. Of course, impeachment proceedings can not now be undertaken. The time is too short, between now and March fourth, when Roosevelt will be marched forth. But here is where Judge Wright's opportunity comes in.

The Presidential act is also in flagrant "contempt of court"—of all the Federal

Court decisions on the subject. So true a patriot as Judge Wright, with the dignity of the Courts so much at heart, can not fail to perceive the opportunity, providentially granted to him, of exercising the summary powers which, in the instance of Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison, he has exercised so summarily.

Judge Wright should hasten to hustle Theodore Roosevelt into jail for "contempt of court."

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

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