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EDITORIAL

ROOSEVELT'S BID FOR OFFICE.

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IN the current issue of the *Outlook* Contributing Editor Theodore Roosevelt takes occasion to express his views on the subject of the economic and political reforms that are pressing forward. The title of the article is "Judges and Progress." The article is lengthy.

The first impression that the article leaves upon the mind is that Roosevelt is using words "to conceal his emotions." Towards the end, however, the purpose of the article transpires to be an effort to ride two horses. This appears clearly in the sentence:

"The power must exist in the people to see to it that the Judge, like the legislator and the executive, becomes in the long run representative and answerable to"—What? To the will of the people constitutionally expressed? Not at all—"answerable to the well thought out judgment of the people as a whole."

Do reformatory people clamor for the referendum, the initiative, the recall of all officials, judges included?—Here you are, shouts Roosevelt back to them. I distinctly proclaim that "the power must exist in the people to see to it that the Judge, like the legislator and the executive, becomes in the long run representative and answerable." Whereupon the hurrah of unthinking multitudes is expected to greet the declaration.

But, do Top-Capitalists pull Roosevelt's coat-tail and whisper into his ear something to the effect that, if officials, judges especially, were answerable to the small-fry capitalists who clamor for reform, then Top-Capitalism would have to bleed for it?—Here you are, whispers Roosevelt into their ear. Distinctly have I provided that the answerableness of officials, judges distinctly included, shall be only "to the well thought out judgment of the people as a whole." Don't you catch on? Who is to decide whether the demand is agreeable to the "well thought out judgment"? Who but

we the officials? Whereupon the whispering Top-Capitalists are expected to whisper back: “Teddy, you are a trump—our trump.”

Roosevelt’s bid for office beseems the alleged “Hero of San Juan” and the actual “Kettle Hill Hero.”

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