

EDITORIAL

## A SCHEME WITHIN A SCHEME.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**ILL Gov. Sulzer turn for a moment his ears from the applause of the multitudes, who are applauding his message to the Legislature recommending the repeal of the law which granted a charter to the Long Sault Rapids Development Company on the St. Lawrence River—will the Governor turn for a moment his ears from that applause, and lend them for a moment to a question?

“Seeing that the said charter places in the hands of the company an odious monopoly, harmful, besides, to the preservation of the State’s resources; seeing that the law from which the charter flowed ‘is violative of our State Constitution’; seeing, moreover, that the provisions of the law ‘are in other respects improvident, unwise and indefensible’,—seeing that you expressly recognize all this, by what canon of law, of reason, or of justice can you allow the Legislature to pass bills which provide ways and means for the said company to apply to the State Board of Claims ‘for any valid claim’ it may have against the State because of the repeal of the law?

“Is it to be supposed that the company is the victim of the law in question, by which it was lured into obtaining a charter, instead of the law being the victim of the company, having been enacted at the company’s instigation for ‘unconstitutional, improvident, unwise and indefensible’ purposes?

“Can a wrong-doer have any ‘valid claims’ from the State Treasury?

“Is not the easy rendering of the presentation of claims by a wrong-doer tantamount to rendering easy a wrong-doer’s profiting by his own wrong?

“Finally, is the ‘People’s House,’ as you have re-christened the Executive Mansion, the legitimate dock-yard whence to launch such a scheme?”

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