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EDITORIAL

REEKING IN ROTTENNESS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

NO sooner do the “guardians of morality and civic virtue”, as the Republican, Democratic and Mugwump press love to style themselves, think they are through indignating, explaining or apologizing on the subject of some scampishness at which a batch of “the best and substantial citizens” are caught, than they are forced to turn their attention to another batch of equal worthies caught at similar best-and-substantial-citizen doings. The performance has become continuous.

Before the Post Office scandals were laid, there came the gas scandal with its revelations of capitalist perjury and other frauds; elbowing the gas stench came the festering sore of the Equitable Association, with the Schiffs doing, as bankers, business with themselves, as trustees, the Depews raising loans on depreciated property, the Alexanders paying out of trust funds salaries to dead people, all in express violation of the statute; close upon the heels of that started the proceedings against the Armours for acts that merit the penitentiary; in quick succession with this scandal, and always “going up higher” came the Loomis scandal convicting a Federal officer accredited abroad of peculating upon the strength of his office; the Paul Morton scandal of a Cabinet officer being convicted out of his own mouth with violating the law as a railroad director; the Judge Hooker scandal of a judiciary officer seeking to collect the debts due to his wife by saddling his wife’s debtors upon the Government as sinecure salary-drawing officials, and the virtual approval of such misconduct by the Bar Association; the Standard Oil bucket fulls of scandal made public by the Lawson articles; the Federal Agricultural Department scandal of private information being sold for hard cash; and now comes another ugly scandal involving the bribing of Army inspectors to accept worthless, if not rotten goods. The end certainly is not yet. Just peeping above the horizon or making the lids rattle

over the edges of the boxes in which they are frantically sought to be held concealed, are, from Panama up or down, scores upon scores of promiscuous scandals that are ready to burst upon public attention.

In the best regulated families a “black sheep” may occasionally turn up; but has the house of Capitalism any white sheep left! Wherever the flash-light of inquiry is turned only “black sheep” are seen. One swallow does not make summer, a whole swarm does. The Capitalist Class reeks with rottenness. Why stand upon the order of its overthrow?

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