

EDITORIAL

WILSON AND LEGALITY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**T**HERE is nothing illegal about these confederacies [Trusts and Syndicates], so far as I can perceive. They have come about very naturally, generally without plan or deliberation, rather because there was so much money to be invested,” etc.

Such are the views of a College President; more than a College President: there are College Presidents who should be drummers for breweries: but this one is one who deserves to be truly a College President by breeding and by mental acquirements.

An odd definition of “legality” sprouts from Woodrow Wilson’s concept of “legality” as illustrated by his conception of the rise of Trusts and Syndicates; an odder concept of the genesis of piles of “money to be invested.”

Of course, there was no plan before hand. Of course, the Trust is a natural evolution. But an evolution of what? It is an evolution of social conditions that are brought about by the “creation” of a proletarian caste. And how was that evolution encompassed? It was encompassed by the physical tearing away of the peasant from his acre. That was crime. The receiver of stolen goods is no better than the thief himself. The crime of the feudal landlord furnished the private holder of mechanical tools of production with the human raw material to weave, and churn, and hammer into goods, wares and merchandise. Thus arose the capitalist. The A of the economic-social alphabet having been uttered, the uttering of the Z in the same alphabet was bound to come. ’Twas only a question of time. It came here in America first. On the way thither more and more abundant deposits of money made their appearance—the money expression of smoked-out concerns. Crime started the sequence—and criminal is the last link thereof.

The Trust is the product of the people, of humanity—every fiber of the Trust is

a human fiber absorbed—the crime of the Trust can be redressed only by restoring it to its legitimate owners. Only then can the crime be atoned for, because only then can the potentialities of the Trust accrue to the benefit of the race—ampleness of production.

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