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EDITORIAL

## THE ROOSEVELT GRIN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**N**O one in this office has ever seen Theodore Roosevelt. With his grin we are acquainted only through reports and cartoons. Nevertheless, even if the “Roosevelt Grin” be an invention of the whole cloth, Roosevelt must certainly be grinning from ear to ear, with all his front teeth peeled.

Every charge made by {John Dustin} Archbold, concerning Roosevelt’s having plundered the treasury of the Standard Oil, must suit our would-be Napoleon the Little to a t. To have been able to “spoil the Philistines” can only add inches to the estimation that the rabble-rout, which Roosevelt appeals to, entertains for their hero.

Every accusation hurled at our sprouting Napoleon the Little, regarding his violations of the law, increases the confidence of the Roosevelt mob in his being just the man after their heart. Already on the Boston Common where he, an ex-President, slapped both cheeks of Congress, and kicked the National Legislature in the stomach, the applause of the mammoth crowd could be heard for blocks away.

Every Charles Edward Russell—who “testifies” how Roosevelt could and did summon J. Pierpont Morgan to the telephone, whenever Roosevelt wanted,—renders the “hero of Kettle Hill” more admirable to the ocean of Slummery which feels that that’s just the way to treat the Nabob who has high-financed them into the gutters.

Every Eugene V. Debs—who bitterly accuses the big Bull Mooser of having “burglarized” his Socialist party platform—causes the petty-bourgeois “burglars” of Labor’s product, whose career of economic burglary turned out unsuccessful, to feel all the prouder of the successful “burglar” who clothes burglary with the mantle of “Socialism.” Do not Anarchists like to strut in the mantle of Socialism? Did not William D. Haywood, the Anarchist on the N.E.C. of the S.P., encourage that other

member of the S.P., the reformer Robert W. Bruere, to accept the invitation of the Colonel to join a “burglarious” seance against the S.P. platform?

Nor are only such elements spurred to greater attachment to, and drawn in larger numbers toward, the Colonel by charges of rascalities against him. Is it not a hymn-singing Kansas farmer who, when told that Roosevelt did Harriman out of \$100,000, is reported to have exclaimed: “Bully! The only fault I find with him is that he didn’t do that ‘Limb of Lombard Street’ out of twice the amount!”?

No Napoleon the Little ever can be painted too black to suit him. The blacker he is painted, the more is he idolized by the social refuse, the mass-existence of which Napoleon-the-Little ever is a political symptom of, and all the more is he cherished by the economic magnates who need a Big Stick to supplement their capacity for economic brigandage.

The bourgeois and reform elements who are yelping at Theodore Roosevelt realize not that they but broaden the “Roosevelt Grin.”

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