

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 230.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1913.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## “MELONS,” “MELONS,” “MELONS” ALL AROUND.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**O the benighted we must begin by explaining that a “melon” is the Wall Street technical term for a heap of money, easily and somewhat unexpectedly acquired. The “melon” is then “cut,” that is, apportioned among the select, each getting his juicy, aromatic slice. That is the “melon.”

Within the last three weeks announcements have been made of four “melons” in finance. There was the “melon” of the Standard Oil of New Jersey Corporation, close to \$35,000,000; there was the “melon” of the American Woolen Company, despite the Lawrence strike (or perhaps on account of the same?), nearly \$14,000,000; there was the “melon” of the Southern Pacific, nearly \$75,000,000; and there was the “melon” of the wire branch of the Steel Trust, something like \$15,000,000.

The respective directors met. They practised their usual arithmetics of “addition, division and Silence”; proclaimed the “melon”; and cut it. The gaping multitude of headline-readers, together with the few who take a morbid pleasure in the details of such transactions and read the “story”—on the same principle that others of their kin love to rubberneck among the loungers who hang around the festal house of some multimillionaire to steal a peep into the gorgeous interior—lick their chops, like curs when their master is at his meal; enjoy the “melon’s” taste vicariously; and are carried away with admiration for the “cleverness” of the “melon” raisers.

Barely are the reports of these “melons” over when there is an outburst of reports concerning another crop of “melons.” The latter crop has not yet been “listed.” These “melon” patches have not their business offices in Wall Street; although he must be passing dull who does not detect the Wall Street irrigation tubes to connect both patches—the patches where grow the regulation Wall Street “melon,” and the

patches where the variation “melon” abounds. The latter brand of “melons” goes just now by the name of “graft”;—“melons” they are, all the same.

These “melons” do not rise quite to the exuberant dimensions of tens of millions; they are considerably smaller. “Nevertheless, they partake of the “melon” features, and must be classified under that family:—they are big, one of them not smaller than of three million in size; they are easily acquired; they are “cut”; they are luscious; they are distributed among the Directors and their retinues—named in this instance, Chiefs of Police, Captains, Inspectors and “Higher Ups”—; and last not least, these “melons” partake of the characteristic botanical feature of the Wall Street “melons” in that, like the Wall Street type, these others engender among the gaping multitude an unmistakable admiration for the “cleverness” of those who manage to raise them, and thus to provide themselves not only with an ampleness of the dainty, but with sufficient to spare and wherewith hire lawyers when the “melon” gets them into a scrape—just as the Wall Street “melonites.”

From the economic-sociologic view-point the present social system is known as the “capitalist”; from the horticulturist-sociologic view-point the social system should be named “melonist.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded November 2014

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)