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EDITORIAL

## AFTER MALLOCK, AKED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Rev. Dr. Charles Aked, Rockefeller's pastor, English by birth and now a naturalized American, has celebrated his naturalization with a speech, address or sermon in the course of which he establishes the contrasts between England and America that have caused him to throw British citizenship overboard. The leading contrast is this: "Here you have no House of Lords to sit on your chest and stifle your ambitions." It is but the other day that a Briton, Prof. Mallock, was imported to stem the flood of Socialism. He failed egregiously. Now the same attempt is to be tried, along another line, by another importation.

Competition, says Marx, breeds monopoly, and monopoly, in turn, breeds competition. The experience made by competitors that their mutual throat-cutting is wasteful causes them to combine. The increased profits made by these combinations starts a fresh competition: idle capital sets up competing plants. The new competition, thus bred by "monopoly," speedily learns the lesson taught by the first competition. Combination is again the result. The still higher profits made by the still more powerful combine, again breeds fresh competition by again inciting cupidity after its increased profits; and so on. Clear is the fact that each new combine is more powerful than the preceding one. Larger capital is needed from step to step. In the measure that larger capital is requisite for each successive competitive stage, it follows that the competitive field is every time narrowed down to fewer competitors. Only a decreasing number are equipped with enough capital to enter the field. A larger and ever larger number are, from stage to stage, left out. The effect of this process is double. On the one hand, the opportunities for an independent existence are narrowed; on the other hand, the power of the privileged few increases in such measure that they actually "sit on your chest and stifle your ambitions." In a large number of staples the development has reached this stage.

We have to-day in America, not one House of Lords; we have a score of them; these being intimately connected, it is not a simple British House of Lords that sits on our American chest and stifles our ambitions, it is a score-fold House of Lords that to-day presses upon our chest.

It looks as if the Aked attempt at stifling the rising American intelligence is now to be made under the cloak of papers of naturalization. Did not the attempters' judgment fail them when they placed the Rev. Dr. Charles Aked of all pulpits, into the pulpit of the Standard Oil, the most colossal monopoly of all?

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)