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EDITORIAL

THE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

HAVING found time from its virtuous spasms of repaying wrongfully held moneys to its patrons, to look about for a new president, the Consolidated Gas Co. has hit upon—George B. Cortelyou, Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury. Cortelyou having practically accepted, the Gas Co. announces that he was the happy chosen one because "Mr. Cortelyou's handling of the financial situation during the panic of 1907 gained for him the thorough confidence of the leading financial powers of the city."

What that handling was, is now past and well-known history. Wages were cut from one end of the country; Washington made no move to relieve the victims of these cuts. Workmen were thrown out of work, till the number of unemployed reached ten million; Washington took no steps to provide labor for them. Starvation walked the land; no relief trains went out from Washington. Destitution claimed thousands; no medical or other assistance was sent them from the nation's capital. Suicide followed suicide, of desperate workingmen and women, who could not further face the miseries of life in a panic; no succor or encouragement proceeded in their direction from where George B. Cortelyou, Secretary of the Treasury sat in his plush-lined chair.

But turn over the page. These people were not responsible for the panic. Perhaps no help was due them for what fell upon them, not through their own fault. How fared those who, in part designedly, in part through blundering ignorance, brought on the panic?

Scene I sees George Cortelyou, at his treasury desk, sit up in alarm at the report of crash upon crash among his friends, the brokers, speculators, stock waterers, and other capitalists of New York. Scene II sees George B. Cortelyou on board a special train rushing to this city. Scene III sees George B. Cortelyou in J.P.

Morgan's New York drawing room, behind locked doors, saying, in effect: "Mr. Morgan, here is the United States Treasury; don't be bashful."

So gained Mr. Cortelyou the "thorough confidence of the leading financial powers of the city." Go now to thy reward, thou good and faithful servant.

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