

EDITORIAL

ROOSEVELT STILL DODGING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

TESTIFYING in the United States suit now pending for the dissolution of the Steel Trust, Theodore Roosevelt once more repeated the narrative of the experiences which he first disclosed before the Stanley Investigation Committee; and he again closed with the statement that his approval of the acquisition of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company by the corporation was necessary to check, and did succeed in checking the spread of the panic of 1907.

This is a dodge—the persistence in a dodge.

The issue is not whether Roosevelt's connivance at violation of the Sherman anti-trust act checked, or did not check, the spread of the panic of 1907. The issue is, Did Roosevelt testify truthfully before the Stanley Committee that the name of the financial firm, which to save Messrs. Frick and Gary of the Steel Trust informed him they were ready to buy the stock of the Tennessee concern from, was withheld from him, and that despite silence upon that matter he agreed to allow the acquisition of the Tennessee Company by the Trust?

That is the issue.

If Roosevelt, when still President, promised to wink at the violation of a Federal statute, upon the theory that its violation would save the country a fierce panic, and made the promise relying upon the judgment of private individuals who afforded him no opportunity to judge of the matter himself, seeing they withheld from him the name of the financial concern which was to be saved,—if Roosevelt did that, then, for the nonce, he abdicated the office that the people had elected him to; abdicated the office to a private concern, the Steel Trust.; and then, the Steel Trust was, by grace of Roosevelt, made President for the occasion.

If, on the other hand, Roosevelt prevaricated before the Stanley Committee, and the name of the firm which was to be saved by the violation of the anti-trust act was

disclosed to him, then the President of the United States went into partnership with the Steel Trust, and the partnership consisted in a conspiracy to break the law.

Let these facts and their conclusions bite firmly into the calves of Theodore Roosevelt, till he can dodge the issue no more.

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