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EDITORIAL

THE NEWSPAPER EFFORTS TO DECLARE TRUSTS ILLEGAL.

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THE newspaper press of to-day is a capitalist institution. Like the old political parties its primary aim is to delude the working class in the interest of the capitalist class. In order to do this, it pretends, as do the old political parties, to espouse measures which, it alleges, will bring relief to the working class from oppression. Just now the favorite method is to attack the trusts. Legal processes are invoked for the purpose of establishing the legality or illegality of these combinations of capital, an action which in itself amounts to little, for if successful, the trusts are fined sums that are trivial in comparison to the enormity of the offenses alleged against them. Such legal processes, however, generally prove of no avail. The truth of this may be witnessed in the failure attending the prosecution of the Standard Oil Company in Ohio; the Lumber and other trusts in Texas; and the Beef Combine in New York, Missouri and other States. Yet, despite these facts—despite the facts that these legal processes are of no value, whether successful or unsuccessful—the modern newspaper press resorts to them with a great beating of tom toms. It proclaims them the cure-all of trust evils. It creates in the minds of its working class readers the belief that possibly these legal processes are all that is claimed for them. These working class readers conclude consequently that this newspaper press is worthy of their confidence and support. They accordingly are induced to be guided by this press in other matters, political, economic and otherwise.

It stands to reason that modern newspaper writers, with all their facilities for gathering information, know that such legal actions are of no avail. They know the oft-proclaimed fact that trusts have increased despite the laws enacted against them. Such being the case, what can one conclude, but that their use of the law is only a scheme to

lead the confiding and supporting working class into the shambles of capitalism, much after the manner of the old political parties? That this is not mere assumption other facts demonstrate. This press, for instance, insists upon the perpetuation of capitalism, even at the expense of the great majority of the people—the working class. It insists upon the observance of capitalist rights above all other rights. It, in a number of ways, throws the weight of its influence in favor of the system which it professes to condemn; and brutally, nay viciously, attacks the espousal of a better system—the co-operative system of Socialism. To bind closer the chains of slavery, while pretending to strive for liberty, is the aim of the modern newspaper press. All else is fraud and deception.

It is time the working class perceived this truth. It is time the working class discontinued supporting the means of their own enslavement and determined to uphold the press of their class—the organs of the Socialist Labor Party. Only in such papers are the true and only possible methods of obtaining working class relief from trusts expounded. Only through their teachings then can the working class escape the slavery of capitalism, for in them it is shown that the working class must own and operate all capital in its own interests and thus do away with both trusts and capitalism.

Workingmen, support your own press, if you would support yourself. The modern newspaper is a capitalist paper. The S.L.P. papers are working class papers!

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