

EDITORIAL

KICKING AGAINST PRICKS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE correctness of each of the shots, in the volley of shots fired by [Senator Culberson](#) of Texas on the 7th of this month against Roosevelt, is the exact measure of the size of the pricks that the Culbersons are kicking against.

Correct is the charge that the President's permitting the Steel Corporation to absorb the Tennessee Coal and Iron Co. is "one more lawless act of the President, who is sworn to uphold the laws and punish those who violate them."

Also correct is the charge that this latest act of Roosevelt's is but all exemplification of "his main dogma that he is absolutely absolved from any legal restraint whatever."

This is all true. But what does it avail mentioning correctly the symptoms of pneumonia when the afflicted patient is being persistently treated with Blue Jay Corn Cure?

The Culbersons of this generation live in an Age that has gone by, and they have not the slightest inkling of the nature of the Age they are now living in.

A social system at the stage of dissolution has but one of two chances before it—either fall into the chaos of Anarchy, or fall into the hands of a Despot. Either choice resolves itself into "Lawlessness."

The American Commonwealth has taken the second choice.

For the last eight years, Lawlessness has characterized the conduct of the Federal Executive. Providentially the Lawlessness is executed by a man so exactly the opposite of McKinley in character that the Lawlessness has not been concealed.

The Culbersons are like men worshipping at the shrine of Jupiter after the Jovian niche has been filled with some other deity. The chords they touch are unresponsive. Capitalism has cast its democratic slough: it now figures in the only skin that fits the economic season—the Lawlessness of Despotism.

“Checks and balances” once were the panaceas for governmental usurpation. “Checks and balances” will stand no more. Political Government is running its course. It is now beyond all “check” and “balance.” It will run straight to the Dictatorship—or must be overthrown by Industrial Government.

The Culbertsons but kick against pricks.

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

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