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EDITORIAL

## STALE, YET VALUABLE.

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**M**R. C.W. Post, of Battle Creek, Mich., but yesterday to fortune and fame unknown, has become to-day a house-hold word. The gentleman's name prances on the front pages of all our papers. In most of them, the Socialist press excepted, he is glorified. Not quite so radiant is the Socialist at Mr. C.W. Post. While the Socialist will ever thankfully receive from capitalists all information they are willing to give against one another, as the outcome of their Christian Endeavor{,} pious lives and their Patrick Henry patriotic habits, yet is the Socialist not quite ready to see in these revelators the great discoverers that they affect to be. Mr. C.W. Post and his revelations are instances in point.

Mr. C.W. Post has discovered that the New York Federal Senator Thomas C. Platt is in the Senate only in order to protect his private interests as the executive officer of the United States Express Company. This seems to interfere with Mr. C.W. Post's interests, and he has petitioned the Senate to expel Platt. While we shall not deny that Mr. C.W. Post may have made a certain concrete discovery, the theory that rests upon numerous facts of the same nature, and of which such discoveries are but cumulative proof, is an old, time-honored principle of Socialism.

The Senate will not expel Platt. It will not for the good and sufficient reason that there is not a Senator in the Senate who is not in the same box—only with regard to some other industry. One is there to represent the railroads; another the woolen mills of Massachusetts; a third, a fourth and a fifth the shipping of California, of the Great Lakes and of Maine; another set the coal industries of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, Utah and Colorado; still another set the shoe industry; and so on down the line. Mr. C.W. Post evidently does not know that capitalist politics preserve the artificial political boundaries of constituencies only for the purpose of concealing the fact that, not territories, but industries are

represented in capitalist parliaments. The delusion is necessary. The system arose under the feudal regime, when the feudal lords actually represented the particular domains from which they were named, and that were their actual constituencies. With the advent of capitalism, the system was at first continued because capitalist industry, being at its infancy, had not yet reached the confluent smallpox stage that it now is in. It was limited to the burgs and communes from which the respective “representative” or “deputy” hailed. By degrees all that changed, but it would not do to change the system of representation along with the developed system of the thing represented. The fact of the change had to be kept secret: the secret was necessary in order to preserve the false local prides of the empty-headed; and also to pull the wool over the eyes of the workers who are to be blinded to the fact that what is really represented is not the people, but the special interests of the “representatives.”

Aware of all this, the Socialist is not amazed at Platt, nor does he wonder at the discoverer C.W. Post, except to notice how little even the C.W. Post members of the capitalist system realize the extent to which their system is foreshadowing the administrative structure of the Socialist Republic, where parliament, no longer having for its purpose to dupe the working class, will drop the artificial political boundaries of constituencies, and organize itself with the representatives of the industries.

In so far as Mr. C.W. Post of Battle Creek, Mich., has contributed by his discovery to raise the tip of the curtain that conceals the formation of the approaching parliament of the Socialist Republic, the “discovery,” though stale, is valuable.

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

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