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EDITORIAL

TRIUMPHANT SOCIALIST TRUTH.

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ONE investigation of one set of capitalists, the insurance worthies, is not quite done before what is virtually another examination starts. This second examination is the hearing now taking place before a special commissioner in this city in connection with the suit of the State of Missouri against the so-called Waters-Pierce Oil Companies—an alias of the Standard Oil Company. The hearing has hardly begun, and already the facts brought out are juicy.

It is a common thing for the capitalist to deny the veracity of Socialist contentions with what he calls facts. In most instances the facts crumble as soon as touched. There is, however, one set of alleged facts, the disproval of which is not always easy. It is the allegation that, instead of capital concentrating, it scatters and takes in an ever larger number of thrifty “fearers of God”, industrious citizens, and law-abiding patriots. In order to prove the allegation, the capitalist professors, politicians and pulpiteers are in the habit of reading off long lists of concerns in some industry in which the concerns were formerly fewer. The proof is considered complete; the difficulty of ascertaining the make-up of the concerns affords the lie a chance. That it is a lie economic science teaches, and conditions, impossible if the lie were truth, confirm. Nevertheless, so many are the credulous and so plausible is the theory that long strings of concerns, located at great distance from one another, must be disconnected, that the imposing array of the names of these concerns usually carry people off their feet. People readily succumb to the fascination of the agreeable myths that capitalism sets on foot, these myths ever being attractive lures. Every little while, however, something happens to smash the myth. Such a something is the hearing now going on in the suit of the State of Missouri to ascertain the actual status of an alleged independent concern that sails under the name of Waters-Pierce Oil Company. The testimony has brought out the fact that

the Standard Oil Company has at least 18 aliases according to the locality in which its several integral parts are located. The aliases are:

Standard Oil Company of Ohio, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Standard Oil Company of Indiana, Indiana Pipe Line Company, Atlantic Refining Company, Solar Refining Company, Standard Oil Company of Kentucky, Buck-Eye Pipe Line Company, New York Transit Company, National Transit Company, Southern Pipe Line Company, Northern Pipe Line Company, Eureka Pipe Line Company, Forest Oil Company, Ohio Oil Company, North-western Ohio Pipe Line Company, and Southern Pennsylvania Oil Company.

The seeming increase of firms under a variety of names is meant to conceal the fact of concentration, and also to outwit the law. Like the criminal, who has as many aliases as he has different stamping grounds, capitalist concerns sail under as many names as their criminal practices require them to assume.

Whatever else the hearing on behalf of the State of Missouri may yet bring out will be mere “velvet”. The fish it has so far landed is portly enough. Apart from the lawlessness of the alleged “pillar of law and order,” the capitalist, so far proven, the fact regarding the Standard Oil Trust’s aliases is an ample settler of the capitalist myth regarding the “increase of new firms”. Socialist Truth once more triumphs.

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