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EDITORIAL

FOR MALLOCK'S MEMORANDUM BOOK.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is a seasonable hour, now that the Sugar Trust has been found guilty of fraudulent weights and fined nearly \$2,000,000, and that the Directors of the Trust are pleading the baby act, "we did not know"—it is seasonable at this hour to recall the recent performances of another Trust, the Paper Trust.

Complaints having poured thick and fast upon Congress charging that paper manufacturers had combined in a Trust and that, "in violation of law," they were charging the trade all it could bear, the House of Representatives appointed a special committee to investigate the matter. The committee was called the Mann Committee from its chairman James R. Mann of Illinois.

At the May 16, 1908, session of the Mann Committee appeared G.H.P. Gould, President of the Gould Paper Company, and testified that he knew "of no agreement or understanding of any kind among the paper manufacturers to put a fixed or concerted price upon one paper, or to restrict the output."—One month and three days later the said Gould Company pleaded guilty to an indictment charging the Company with doing, since September, 1906, the very things which its President declared a month and three days before he knew nothing of.

At the May 18, 1908, session of the Mann Committee appeared Tom T. Waller, second Vice-President of the International Paper Company, and testified to the same effect as Gould had testified two days before.—One month and one day later the Company that was the exclusive selling agent of the Waller Company pleaded guilty to an indictment, as did the Gould Company, charging the Company with doing the very thing which Waller claimed a month and one day earlier was not being done.

Instances could be multiplied. These will do.

Mallock claims that the captains of industry are the real wealth

producers—their brains are the source of all good things—they are the runners of things who fill the cornucopia with wealth and cause it to overflow.

By the light of the Gould, Waller, etc., facts and the freshest ones furnished by the Directors of the Sugar Trust, it follows that—

Either Mallock's Directors tell the truth, and then they take the bottom to from under his theory;

Or, they really direct, and then the Mallock theory has to be supplemented with the sentence: "A necessary feature of 'directing ability' is a capacity to produce unconscionable false testimony, to the greater glory of capitalist 'Law and Order.'"

All of which is respectfully submitted for Mallock's memorandum book.

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

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