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EDITORIAL

A SCIENTIST WHO IS NOT A BAT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE first well-directed and well administered prick to the balloon of the false pretense of “Conservation,” outside of the Socialist Labor Party’s camp, comes from the Denver, Colo., *Mining Science* for the current month.

The pin that does the pricking is shaped in the following terms:

“The much used term ‘conservation’ has come to mean, in the minds of politicians, the prevention of private ownership of anything that has thus far escaped this destiny. In their moments of professed frankness, such ‘conservationists’ intimate a desire to prevent the monopoly of the resources of Alaska and other western regions. But the fact is that the proposals cited are clearly in aid of ‘monopoly.’ Only highly concentrated capital will be able to reap benefit from the restrictions that the government is asked to impose upon Alaskan development, for it alone will be able to meet the conditions.”

And this is all that there is of it, or, to use a commonplace, this is the “milk in the cocoanut” of the loud harangues against “predatory wealth,” shouted, from public rostrums and through the columns of papers devoted to the “common people,” by Roosevelt and his Pinchots, by Pinchot and his Roosevelts.

In these our days, it is a safe guess—when any member of the Top Capitalist Class, or any of the agencies of the same, waxes loud “against monopoly”—that the loudness is, not against “monopoly, but in its exaggerated interest.

Caesar and his Catilines, with autocracy up their sleeves, were loud in denunciation of Pompey and his fellow patricians. So to-day, Roosevelt and his Pinchots are obstreperous foes of Taft and his Ballingers.

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