

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 2, NO. 252.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1902.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

## TWO MORE LESSONS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE suit instituted by Attorney-General Knox against the Northern Securities Company, usually spoken of as the Merger Suit, is developing a larger number of “lessons” than at first imagined. To the lesson already mentioned in these columns there are now two to be added.

To the Democrats, who seem to have been of opinion that they had a goodly quantity of campaign ammunition to fight the pending Congressional campaign with, the Merger Suit move seems to have been a stunning blow. They look at it as a move on the political chess-board by which the Republicans will be able to strike the attitude of being anti-monopolists. The measure of the Democratic rage thereat can be taken by the measure of the Democratic admiration for so “clever a trick.” But the Democrats are not wasting their time in idle rage, or idle admiration, either. They have, with typical Democratic originality, started to parry the Republican stroke with an imitation. Accordingly, the New Jersey State Senator McDermott of Huntington County has introduced a bill in the Legislature to revoke the charter of the Northern Securities Company, and his Democratic colleagues have taken up the cry. And now it is the Republican turn to find themselves outwitted. The Republican pickle is due to the circumstance that the Republicans in the Jersey Legislature are in the majority: they realize that the Democrats do not want the bill to go through, any more than the Republican Administration in Washington means to push its suit to extremities; but they also realize that, the Democrats being in the minority, they can safely push their bill, and thereby throw upon the Republicans the onus of defeating it.—Thus the Merger Suit is exhibiting the straits that the politicians are in, and the doublings that they feel constrained to resort to are betraying their conscious weakness before the latent power of the people.

Nor is this all. The Northern Securities officers see clear enough through this

whole farce. Yet, for all that, they are not at all at ease. They have serious misgivings of the final results that these political manoeuvres may have upon the fate of the concern. They do not at all relish the idea of poking alive the latent popular resentment against Trusts, least of all with themselves under the lime-light. They foresee that the politicians may conjure up a spirit that they may not be able to lay, and that, in such an event, the Company may be sacrificed by the Government on the Trust Altar, to save the rest. Aware of this, the Northern Securities Company have taken steps to have it known that “they have decided not to allow their Company to be made a scapegoat; if they are pressed, they will institute proceedings against all other railroad consolidations and other Trusts that have come into being since the enactment of the Sherman Anti-Trust law.”—Thus the Merger Suit is disclosing the fact that the capitalist concerns are in violation of law, and that they, the appointers of the Government, know one another to be what they are.

There may be more lessons. We shall wait and watch.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded September 2006