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EDITORIAL

## Right Thou Art, Elihu!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A**t the public hearing before the Joint Judiciary Committee of the New York Legislature, held in Albany on the 11th instant, on the pending Primaries Bill, on which occasion the Socialist Labor party appeared in protest, Mr. Elihu Root, representing the New York Union League Club, declared:

“The idea is utterly un-American that the capitalists coerce their employees to vote one way or another.”

Right thou art, Elihu!

Understanding, of course, by “American,” freedom, the idea of coercing citizens to vote against their convictions is certainly un-American.

For the same reason, the conditions under which such coercing practices are possible must be branded as un-American.

Now, it is a fact know to every intelligent man, and undenied by all truthful men, that both the conditions that give birth to coercion, and actual coercion exist here, and are rampant.

Mr. Root spoke more truthfully than he knew, and his words extended wider and deeper than he thought of. What he said means:

“The existing conditions of popular dependence upon a capitalist minority constitute an un-American, being a slavish, social foundation: as I stand here representing just such conditions and upholding them, I, the club that sent me, and the whole class I speak for, are unspeakably un-American.”

All of which is cause that we repeat:

“Right thou art, Elihu!”

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

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