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EDITORIAL

TRY A WHALE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SENATOR TILLMAN of South Carolina is of the opinion that the reason for the panic is that there was not enough money in the South.

Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island is quite positive the panic was brought about because there was not enough money in the New York banks.

Representative Cassel of Pennsylvania has no doubt the panic was due to the harrying of the railroads.

Representative Brownlow of Tennessee thinks that any blind man could see the cause of the panic is the high tariff.

Senator Hopkins of Illinois discovers the cause of the panic in the disregard of the “fundamental principle” of live and let live.

Senator Guggenheim of Colorado wonders how it happens people do not see that the cause of the panic lies in “over-confidence.”

Representative Meyer of Louisiana lays the panic at the door of “Republicanism.”

Representative Powers of Maine points the finger of scorn at the Democratic party for being “the harbinger of hard times, ever.”

Senator Bailey of Texas considers the cause of the panic to be obvious, to wit, the financial question, and the financial question to be the easiest problem of all to solve.

Senator Hansborough of North Dakota is quite positive that the panic {is} a puzzle, and finances a mystery.

Representative Livingston of Georgia has modest misgivings to the effect that the Negro question has its fingers in the panic pie.

Representative McMorran of Michigan goes into astronomical speculations. He does not quite say so, but the inference is that sun-spots are the villains in the play.

To not one of these, or the rest of the Congressional wiseacres who could be quoted, does the thought occur that wealth is to-day producible in quantities enough to afford affluence to all with very few hours of toil; secondly, that such abundance is not produced; thirdly, that the reason is that where wealth is produced for sale, and not for use, the output is beaten down by those who own the means of production; fourthly, that under such circumstances, a diseased condition of things is brought about which breaks out in a number of maladies, and that these maladies periodically run into one another and take the shape of “panics”; finally, that the centre of the trouble being capitalist production, panics are but the heavy rappings of Socialist production, battering at the gate of our present social structure.

A certain university professor who had been quizzing his psychology class and found his students to be a lot of blockheads, is said to have dismissed them, saying:

“Gentlemen, it has been said that fish is good for brain-food. I advise this class to try a whale.”

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

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