

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 338.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

RIGHT WAS ROOT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ON the closing days of the Congress that expired on last March 4th, and the resolution to amend the Constitution by providing for the popular election of Senators being before the Senate, readers of *The People* will remember that Elihu Root, the then junior Senator from the State of New York opposed the resolution with warnings to his colleagues not to allow “the people of the United States to contract the habit of amending the Constitution.”

Within two months that happened which was well calculated to confirm Mr. Root’s darkest forebodings.

The identical resolution, for the amending of the Constitution in such manner as to allow the Senators to be elected by a popular vote in their respective States, being before the House of Representatives at this special session, Representative Thetus W. Sims of Tennessee said:

“Who of you as a business man would without power of revocation authorize an agent to do business for 6 years, 8 or 10 years in advance of the finality of that business?” And, arguing upon these lines, Mr. Sims illustrated the irresponsibility of the present political system, and the necessity for a further constitutional amendment that should provide for the recall of all the functionaries of government.

Mr. Sim’s declaration that the only reason he did not propose a recall amendment at this session was his desire not to endanger the passage of the present proposed amendment to the Constitution. That speech was ample indication of an amendment of that nature spooking at present in the minds of many others, and sure to materialize, eventually if not sooner, in the shape of another amendment to the Constitution.

Imagination needs to be put to no extra strain in order to perceive the long train of Constitutional amendments, which the discussion of each one, successively

proposed, will suggest, and which their successive enactments will cause to raise their heads with equally clamorous demands for recognition.

Senator Root may console himself with the thought that he did his duty to his class. It is none of his fault that “the secret is out,” concerning the people’s right and power to amend the Constitution.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded April 2012

slpns@slp.org