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EDITORIAL

BARKING AT THE MOON.

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SO extensive is the perfidy, that marks the actions of the political agencies of the Capitalist Class, that one may be justified to look for double-dealing in the decision just rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States, pronouncing the Standard Oil Company an “illegal combination,” and ordering it to dissolve within six months.

At the same time, so marked is the ignorance on economics and sociology, that these same agencies betray at every turn, that one must often be careful lest he impute to Perfidy what is due to Ignorance.

In this latest decree against the Standard Oil Company the chances of Perfidy and the chances of Ignorance are so evenly balanced that we are willing to give the bourgeois Court the benefit of the doubt on the worse of the two offenses. Rather think it guilty of wearying our patience with Ignorance, than of intentionally seeking to mislead our sense.

The Trust is not a dissolvable proposition. Granite formations may be blasted and leveled; geologic strata, the accumulation of thousands of years, may be channeled through. The economic growth known as the Trust is uneradicable.

The Trust is the joint product of two forces, against which the ingenuity of man is impotent.

One of these forces is the trend of society to produce abundantly, and to produce without arduous toil. The other is the economic force that pronounces sentence of death upon that individual, or combination, that produces less abundantly than socially possible, and that thereby renders production more arduous than socially desirable. The two forces merge into one, and generate that contrivance of condensed and perfected production that is the essence of the Trust.

The general, loud outcry against the Trust would seem to brand the mass of

society inconsistent—on the one hand, pushing and straining, as strain and push it does, for abundant and toilless production; on the other hand, rejecting the very contrivance that would meet its pushing and straining. The mass of society is guiltless of the stigma. Its outcry is not against the essence of the Trust: its outcry is against a mere incident of the Trust, an incident that is as different, separate and separable from the Trust as the spell of the egg is different, separate and separable from the chick that has taken shape within, and then cracked and leaped out of it. The outcry is against the cause that causes the Trust itself to present a shocking contradiction—instinct with the power to bless, yet being to-day a scourge to the race—the shell within which it developed, private ownership, still sticking to it, and Capitalist Class Interests, the only ones to profit by the contradiction, insisting it shall continue to stick, and at their wits' end to furnish the glue, the artificial means, for the sticking.

That the social and economic forces, which make for the Trust formation, are resistless; that all attempt to “scatter,” or “dissolve” the Trust is child's play, a rattle to entertain the gullible, and stop the ear of Discontent to the teachings of Socialism, which demands the preservation of the socio-economic contrivance that the Trust is, but as loudly demands that the Trust be stripped of its class feature, the private ownership that holds in suspense its civilized potentialities;—that all this is no secret to the Capitalist Class, national and international, is evidenced by the way this very Standard Oil Trust's stock has bounded up, not despite, but because of the decision which naively orders the Company to disband.

The learned Justices of the land's Supreme Court have merely barked at the moon—like Judge Barret of the Supreme Court of this State did twenty-four years ago in this city.

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