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EDITORIAL

SUPPLEMENTALS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE “Frenzied Finance” charges against “The System”, brought in *Everybody’s Magazine* by Thomas W. Lawson, have for several weeks been credited with “wiping out fortunes” in Wall street, and generally shaking things up. Proof positive of the effectiveness of the charges is now at hand. Col. W.C. Greene of the copper syndicate has “come out of his hole”. The manner of the Colonel’s debut is worth watching. The Colonel’s conduct supplements the Lawson charges: “The System” now stands thoroughly convicted.

Colonel Greene publishes in the papers a broadcast letter addressed to Lawson. The latter is therein denounced and his charges reviled. He is charged with “pandering to the worst prejudices of the American people”; his allegations are designated as “foul villifications”, as “chicanery”, etc., etc.—all of which are strong words. But words, strong or otherwise, are no facts, leastways are they proof. They are that as little as affidavits are lobsters. Such “answers” are confessions of guilt.

But that’s not the only feature of the Colonel’s letter. The letter also contains a passage notifying Lawson that the Colonel is “going to call upon him at his office”. The passage is clear enough. It supplements the first. Lawson’s reply makes it still clearer. He says that it is a favorite way with the Colonel to silence his adversaries by notifying them that he is “going to call upon them at their offices”. And Lawson makes his own point clearer with the statement that the Colonel “has notches on his gun to mark where he went up against” competitors.

The facts are now all in court. They point the finger of indignant condemnation at the capitalist system. The system that claims to be the pillar of moral rectitude stands exposed, as crooked as a ram’s horn. The system that claims to be the guarantee of property stands trounced as a sneak-thief contrivance. The system that claims to be the shield of industry stands impeached as a foot-pad’s ambush.

The system that claims to be the incentive for human effort stands riddled as a lion in the path of inducement for human effort. The system that claims to be the glory of the age stands plucked and naked of its lying feathers. The system that claims to be the paragon of idealism and spirituality stands unkenneled as a mangy cur. Finally, typified by its Col. W.C. Greene, the class, that bids the workingman march the steep and thorny path of legality, itself only treads the shot-gun road {of} rowdyism.

Greene supplements Lawson.

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