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EDITORIAL

THE WHITE HOUSE INTERVIEW.

By DANIEL DE LEON

PITY there was no Kodakist present when Theodore Roosevelt and “Gen.” Coxe, of Coxe Army of Unemployed celebrity, had their interview at the White House. An expert Kodakist, handling a good machine, would surely have snapped off the tell-tale twinkle in the two men’s eyes.

Said Gen. Coxe to President Roosevelt, looking him in the eye: “Your inland waterways message was grand, but [and here his eyes twinkled with a special twinkle] you queered the whole thing at the end.”

Asked President Roosevelt, in turn looking Gen. Coxe in the eye: “How’s that?”

Replied Gen. Coxe to President Roosevelt: “You suggested a bond issue by which to pay for the work. There should be no bond issue connected with any Federal, State, town, or municipal work.”

Whereupon the eyes of both twinkled simultaneously and at once, and the two sets of twinkles merged into one broad twinkle-sheet that enveloped both of the dialoguists, and prevented the rest of the conversation from being heard.

“The Public,” under capitalism, means the capitalist class. The proofs of this lie all around. It is only the capitalist class that counts under capitalism. When the capitalist class is taking its outings to Europe the capitalist press announces that “nobody is in town.” The masses are simply “not in it” with “The Public.” It follows that “Public Works” are works in the interest of “The Public”; and, “The Public” being the capitalist class, the conclusion can not be escaped that “Public Works” are in the interest of the capitalist class. Now, then, to suppose any “Public Work”—Federal, State, town, or municipal—to be undertaken without bonds is to suppose an absurdity. It is only through the bonds that “The Public’s” interests can be seen to. If crises are on, and there is no opportunity to bond private enterprises, why, then, “Public” undertakings are set up, so as to give bonds an opportunity. The

recently issued New York City bonds were subscribed for many times over, at this very season, when the general cry is “tight money.”

Gen. Coxe is no man’s fool; President Roosevelt knows a thing or two. Bond’s the {Bonds are?} the thing for “The Public.”

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

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