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EDITORIAL

OUR OFFICE-HOLDERS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

GREAT amusement was recently excited in Washington by the answers given by applicants for appointment as keepers in the Government “zoo” to questions put to them to test their familiarity with wild animals.

One said that “carnivorous animals live on islands and exist by the skin of their teeth”; another, that “the habits of tigers is to chase himself around his cage, while some shake their heads from side to side”; a third, that “elephants are found on the ice cliffs of the Siberian coast, and have skulls different from rabbits and squirrels.”

This is, of course, very amusing, and throws unenviable light upon the intellectual grade of our applicants for “zoo” offices. But are these answers, relatively, more ridiculous, or do they throw greater discredit upon the answers than the statement of Senator Reed Smoot of Utah that “Socialists are Anarchists”; or the claim of Victor L Berger, when in Congress, that his Old Age Pension to poor old men of 60 would “relieve the sufferings of old workingmen,” when the majority of proletarians never reach that age; or the answer of Representative Henry George, Jr., to the question of what good would the Single Tax do, that “it will emancipate the underpaid and overworked factory hands”; or the cool assertion of Senator Elihu Root of New York that “a Republican Administration and Prosperity are synonymous”; or the announcement by Senator Augustus O. Bacon of Georgia that “personal freedom is a Southern feature”; or the exclamation of Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania that “the rule of the political boss must be ended”; or the demand of Senator James K. Vardaman of Mississippi that “the purity of the Anglo Saxon blood is in the keeping of the South”; or the opinion of Representative James R. Mann that “the automobile is the poor man’s car”; or the assertion of Senator William E. Chilton of West Virginia that “West Virginia is a law-abiding commonwealth”; or the prophecy of

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts that “free wool will reduce the well-paid factory labor of New England to the pauper labor status of Europe”; or the suggestion of Representative Swager Sherley of Kentucky, in order to escape the evil of too numerous a House, that “the members be seated close together and be brought nearer.”

Any one of these utterances takes rank with the account that “the habits of tigers is to chase himself around his cage” and that “elephants are found on the ice cliffs of Siberia.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org