

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 83.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1902.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

TARIFF REFORM VS. TRUST DEVELOPMENT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE yellow *Journal* announces that the sentiment in favor of tariff reform as a means of controlling the trusts is growing. And so too, may it be said, are the means which will render that sentiment of no avail. The trusts of this country are expanded beyond the confines of the tariff. They are creating international conditions which render impossible the competition which tariff reform expects to create.

These facts are made clear in the news concerning the formation of a world-wide rubber trust by that master of International trustification, J. Pierpont Morgan. Morgan, in order to save the large sums of money invested by the capitalist class, through his firm, in the American Rubber Trust, which was threatened with bankruptcy, determined upon securing control of the sources of crude rubber supply, and thus put that corporation on an unassailable and profitable basis. With the aid of domestic and foreign capitalist interests, Morgan has accomplished his object and now dominates the crude rubber supply of South Africa and South and Central America.

In doing as he did, Morgan pursued the policy that is continuedly being pursued by the Standard Oil monopoly and the Steel Trust; and that is being adopted by the foremost capitalists of the world, and, as a result, is likely to become a marked feature of trust development. With such a policy in general use, the chances of tariff reform controlling the trusts are slim indeed; for, if tariff reform means anything, it means competition; but how is competition possible when competitors cannot get the raw material with which to compete?

Tariff reform will not control the trusts, nor will it solve the trust problem. There is only one way that trusts can be controlled and that the trust problem can be solved: Society must own the trusts, according to the principles of International Socialism! Any

other way is a delusion and a dream!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded October 2006