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EDITORIAL

BECKER PEEPING THROUGH THE BARS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

RIGHT upon the heels of Judge Lovett's interview follows, like the thunderclap upon the lightning, the sworn-to confessions of Col. Martin M. Mulhall, the Republican politician of Baltimore, whom the National Association of Manufacturers employed to do "field work."

The likes of it has not yet been.

From the White House, under Taft, down through the two Houses of Congress, and ramifying thence into the haunts of the National Manufacturers Association, Col. Mulhall raises the veil over all, and gives also interesting side-peeps into corners.

Money, plenty of money, is disclosed to have been spent in obtaining favorable legislation, and needless it is to say that by "favorable" nothing other than Pillars-of-Society chicanery is meant.

Some of the details are of peculiar interest. For instance:—

James E. Watson of Indiana, at the time a leading Republican Congressman, so leading that he was the floor leader for the Taft forces at the Republican national convention of 1912, had been so serviceable to the National Association of Manufacturers in controlling the House Labor and Judiciary Committees that the Association backed him up when he ran for Governor in his State, a campaign which he ran "making radical temperance speeches and denouncing all drinkers," in the intervals of slipping into his room at his hotel, not for purposes of prayer, but of imbibing, and not water but cocktails, of which, on one occasion the "field working" Colonel had prepared six for him in a row, all the six of which Watson speedily got on the outside of.

The National Association of Manufacturers, being anxious to end the Danbury

hatters strike, and all Congressional and other wires having failed to do the trick, the Colonel finally got three parsons to help break the strike by acting as “arbitrators.” One of these parsons, the Rev. H.C. Meserve of the First Congregational Church of Danbury, was, together with his wife, dined and wined and extensively cigaretted, and “he showed himself a good judge of wine, cigars and cocktails,” and was also treated to a trip to Europe. “Judge A.P. Nevins, one of the lawyers in the office of General Manager Bird of the Association,” managing the affair.

Representative Jenkins of Minnesota having been “extremely useful” to the National Association of Manufacturers as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee in 1908, the Association secured from President Taft Jenkins’ appointment to a United States judgeship in the Philippines, where, needless to say, Association “justice” was ladled out by the Association Judge.

And thus the affidavit of Col. Mulhall goes on, telling how enormous sums of money were expended by the Trusts in subsidizing officials; and how the Association “had no difficulty in reaching and influencing for business, political or sympathetic reasons” a large number of leading politicians the then President William H. Taft at the head of the lot.

No wonder “there is consternation in Washington.” And Becker, the convicted police officer, peeps the while through the bars of his cell and, thinking how his pals “peached” upon him and brought him to grief, draws a parallel between his own experience and the experience of the bunch of High-Ups upon whom Col. Mulhall is now peaching.

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