

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 360.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1913.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

WHICH WAS THE WISER?

By DANIEL DE LEON

ROBERT S. Lovett, no less a personage than president and chairman of the executive committee of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, having stated in a published interview in the *Washington Post* that he and his associates were approached by emissaries claiming to be able to exert influence over Congress and public officials, judges included, in connection with the suit involving the dissolution and proposed reorganization of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Companies, a tilt took place, on the afternoon of that very day, the 18th of this month, in the Senate at Washington between two sets of Senators whose corns felt stepped upon.

Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska was the head of one set of Senatorial corns; Senator Jacob H. Gallinger of New Hampshire was the head of the other set of Senatorial dittos.

Senator Norris, expressing the aches of the corns of which he became the center, proposed a resolution expressly directing the Lobby Investigating Committee to subpoena the said Lovett and obtain from him more specific information, to the end of exposing "all persons, and influences claimed to exercise power and control over the settlement and adjudication of said litigation."

Senator Gallinger, expressing the aches of the corns of the other bunch, endeavored, while disclaiming such to be his purpose, to belittle the whole affair, and declared: "There is a bare possibility that some information may be obtained that will be of value to us. But the fact is that at the present time there is nothing before the Senate relating to the reorganization of the Union Pacific Railroad. There is not even a resolution, and it is a rate thing for us to be without a resolution on some subject. There is not a proposition of any kind here relating to it; and I cannot help

seriously thinking that we are chasing something the result of which will not be of any great importance either to the Senate or to the people of the country.”

Which was the wiser head—Norris’s or Gallinger’s?

Gallinger being at the head of the list of Senators in point of seniority, length of service, hence, probably of experience, we bet on Gallinger.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded August 2015

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