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EDITORIAL

TOTALLY UNNECESSARY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ON Tuesday, January the 20th, the Senate rejected the nomination, submitted by the President, of a pension agent for the State of New Hampshire. Washington dispatches thereupon announced that the President has decided to abolish the office of pension agent in New Hampshire as “totally unnecessary.”

Theodore Roosevelt, the enfant terrible of the capitalist class, made the first sensible utterance of his life, official and otherwise, when, after trying to fill the office of pension agent in New Hampshire and failing, he discovered that the same was “totally unnecessary.” The observation is the keynote to a song that in all likelihood Theodore Roosevelt will live to hear re-echoed from one end of the country to the other, only amplified to meet the facts in the case. One day the full-throated cry will rise from the breasts of the working class of the land—“All politicians are **TOTALLY UNNECESSARY**—cancel their offices! All political appointees are **TOTALLY UNNECESSARY**—away with their berths! All capitalists are **TOTALLY UNNECESSARY**—put them to work like honest men!”

The fact that the pension agent for New Hampshire was “totally unnecessary” did not dawn upon Theodore Roosevelt until his wishes (shall one say his material needs?) were crossed by the Senate. That instant the scales dropped from the Presidential eyes on the subject of the pension agent for New Hampshire. A vast number of people—but not yet either sufficient in numbers, or properly organized—have long suspected that it is not the pension agent for New Hampshire only who is “totally unnecessary,” but the whole corps of officials, together with the idle capitalist class, which requires such officials. Roosevelt’s material needs enlightened him as to the pension agent of New Hampshire; the increasing material interests of the masses in the land will proportionately enlighten them. Roosevelt

helped the enlightenment along with his declaration.

It has been said that it is all a myth, that story about dying swans singing beautiful songs. It may be a myth as to swans; it is no myth as to a crossed President with a dying term of office.

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

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