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EDITORIAL

WHERE ALDRICH IS SAFE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SENATOR ALDRICH has recently been mentioned with great frequency in these columns. The reason is that, since the tariff bill was sent to the Senate, he, as the head and front of the offending protected Interests which hold the country by the throat, has held the center of the stage. "Aldrich" is not the individual Aldrich. When used in these columns the name means a type.

The tariff discussion has so far resulted in a number of votings at each of which Aldrich had a majority, it is true, but at each of which there was a danger of his being thrown. Now comes a proposition by Aldrich which leaves no doubt as to who will win. Aldrich is safe.

The proposition is the establishment of a new tribunal, to be called the Customs Court, and stocked with high-salaried officials.

The weak spot in the proposition is obvious. The tariff is to be raised because of the justly apprehended deficiency in the Treasury. How, it will be asked, does it become the Government to increase the expenses with so costly a court as the one proposed? Despite its weakness, the proposition is safe.

Capitalist Government is there to take care of its pets—that is, of itself. A way to provide for its pets is to place them in lucrative berths. It follows that, if the berths are all full, new ones must be created. The more pets well provided for, all the more assured whoopers-up are assured for Capitalism as the only "sane," "religious," "patriotic," "God-fearing," "moral," etc., etc., social system under the sun.

Aldrich is safe, absolutely safe this time. There has been a split in the Democratic delegation on many a tariff schedule since the debate began, Democrats in good round numbers going over to the Republican side. On the Customs Court proposition there will be still larger defections from the Democratic side of the house. Indeed, few, so few will be the visionary Democrats, so many will be the

level-headed ones who will recognize in the Aldrich proposition an added buttress to their common burg, the robber burg of King Capital, that it may be doubted whether a single vote will be cast against Aldrich in this instance.

He is safe—absolutely safe this trip.

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