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EDITORIAL

{THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.}

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**T**HE government wants fight; it shall have it.”—so say the workingmen of St. Petersburg. And it was only on Jan. 22, less than one year ago, that the workingmen of St. Petersburg were the Czar’s petitioners, and as such were humiliated and murdered. To-day they are the masters of his capital, defying his authority, and hastening his preparations for flight! What a great transformation! An imposing revolution!! Think you that this change from beggarly supplication to manly triumph was born of the sentiments inculcated by the theories of the mutual interests of oppressor and oppressed and trade autonomy? Think you that these St. Petersburg workingmen gave ear to leaders who wined and dined with the Czar, and accepted his bloody friendship and bloodier money in the name of Labor, as do the labor leaders, the Gompers, et al., who associate with the Carnegies and Fricks, whose hands are red with the blood of Homestead’s workingmen, and whose money is tainted with the bloody accretions of many inhuman enterprises? Think you all this?—If so then disabuse your mind of the thought. Know that these men are fired by the sentiments of Socialism which recognizes that there are no mutual interests between oppressors and oppressed; that calls upon the working class to unite to a man for the overthrow of all oppression by wiping out the class interests that are its cause; that impells them to labor for social ownership and social interests as against class ownership and class interests, and that over and above all awakens in them the consciousness of their own great power and mission as the pioneers of a new society, in which use and fraternity shall take the place of profit and war. These men are thrilled by the first throbs of a new social order. They are shot through and through with the hope of a new era grander and greater than any the world has yet known. Who wonders then that they are no longer grovelling beggars but triumphant men! And who would

deny that the sentiments that actuate these men can transform the American workingmen, who are further on the road to this new society than the Russian Working Class are likely to be when the present revolution is over? In Russia one has but a forecast of future America.

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

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