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EDITORIAL

IT IS NOT THE CZAR ALONE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FROM the day that the Russian Revolution started the fear was expressed that the Czar and his surroundings might learn wisdom. It was feared that he and they would shake off their habits and opinions, perceive the danger that was approaching, and take a new tack. The fears were unfounded. With praiseworthy pertinacity, a pertinacity for which civilization can not be too grateful to the Czar's establishment, it stuck to its habits of perfidy, cruelty and despotism. The result is a now assured revolution that will pull Russia out of former ruts and start the country forward. There may be those who think that the Czar and his advisers were exceptionally stupid. If they were at all stupid they do not stand alone. Just look at the conduct of the ruling party in this city in the matter of the contest for a recount of the ballots.

As essential as the superstition in the good intentions of the Czar was to the preservation of Czarism, is the superstition in the purity of the capitalist election machinery to the preservation of the rule of capitalist plunder. So long as the people could be made to believe that the ballot box was pure, and that the capitalist class safeguarded its purity, the robber rule of capitalism was safe. The fact remained a secret that the ballot was but a rattle which the capitalist humored the working class with; the workingman taking the ballot seriously would seek to improve his condition with it; in the meantime the capitalist operated the ballot box in such a way that he always came out on top. So long as the superstition could be made to prevail, the Working Class would neglect to organize itself economically in such a way as to enforce the fiat of their ballot. Obviously, it was and is of prime importance to capitalism to do naught that would destroy the useful superstition. And yet what has been happening since last election day in this metropolis of the nation?! Every obstruction has been thrown by Tammany Hall in the way of a

recount. Frauds have been established. Votes are now proven to have been subtracted from Hearst and added to McClellan, yet every dilatory device known to the law is being resorted to in order to prevent the ascertaining of the exact facts. The fiction is set up that the inspectors, being sworn to do their duty, must have done it. Crime, known to have been committed, is thus sought to be cured. When it is considered that the leading attorney for the Tammany side is no less a personage than the recent candidate for President of the Democratic party itself, and that his manoeuvres are not hooted down by the Republican press and party, then the real interests that are opposing the recount stand out clearly enough to view. The Capitalist Class of the land is doing just what the Czar of Russia did—help to dispel the superstition that surrounds and thereby bolsters up their respective thrones.

Usurpation may be counted upon to help throttle itself. It is not due to any special stupidity on its part. It is due to the underlying law of its own existence. That law drives it onward to its own undoing. No one thing points the Working Class of America more imperatively to organize themselves economically, to organize themselves in the I.W.W., so that they may be in possession of the Might wherewith to enforce the Right of their political aspirations than the revelation now being made that the ballot in their hands is but a toy rattle with the Capitalist Class holding the string to the toy.

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