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EDITORIAL

IS IT TO BE?

By DANIEL DE LEON

WE call special attention to the item from Germany under the caption “Movement Abroad,” published elsewhere in this issue.¹ We know of no more significant symptom in the long list of frequent symptoms, that have been crowding upon one another’s heels during the last twelve months and have been thrilling the heart of mankind, than the two passages there quoted from two leading German capitalist papers.

The possibility of the overthrow of the Romanoff dynasty, including Witte, which would mean infinitely more than the mere establishment of a bourgeois government, is there discussed, not as a remote, but as an imminent contingency; the circumstance that such a revolution will leap over the Russian frontier into Germany and roll westward is there considered with all the trepidation that may be expected to agitate the minds of the beneficiaries of the present order of disorder and spoliation; finally, the recognition of the extra-parliamentary power of Organized Labor, revolutionarily directed;—these are utterances of an importance that is excelled by no event of the many important ones that have been recently occurring the world over.

Is it to be?

The theory hitherto has been that the Social Revolution would break out first in the most capitalistically developed Nations, and then pull up the others. Was there a flaw in this theory? Are facts about to be produced to reverse the theory, and show that the impulse is to come from the opposite direction?

Is it to be?

At any rate the start has been given. The “White Man’s Burden” was suddenly

¹ [To be appended at a future date.—R.B.]

assumed by the Yellow Man of Nippon. “Backward” Japan in the Far East gave a kick Westward; that set Russia agoing. Is Russia, in turn, to transmit the kick further West, and each successive nation to pass it on further and further West, successively rising to their feet and successively stamping out their special varieties of Czarism?

Is it to be?

Whether it is to be or not, the duty presses to break through and overthrow the barrier of Civic Federation bogus Unionism that is keeping the Working Class of America divided, disrupted, dislocated, and its mutilated body lashed to the chariot-wheels of Czar Capital; to reach and organize the Working Class of the land in the Industrial Workers of the World;—and to get ready, either to give the correct impulse Eastward, or to utilize and not to muff the impulse that may soon be traveling Westward. In either event, the Working Class of America must be up and doing.

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