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EDITORIAL

THE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS PUBLICITY BILL.

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IT is doubtful, tho' not impossible, that the Senate also will pass the bill providing for the publicity of campaign contributions and expenditures passed by the House. In doing so the Senate will have joined the House in flim-flamming the people—at least in attempting to.

The political State consists of committees of the capitalist class. It is the function of committees to digest and, to the extent that they may have executive functions, to execute measures that are in the interest of their constituents. The capitalist class being the constituent of the committees that constitute the agencies of our political State, the measures digested, or executed, by its committees are measures looking to capitalist interests.

It would be a rash conclusion to imagine that, the political State being a Committee of one class, the capitalist, harmony presides over its deliberations. "Far otherwise and to the contrary." He who says "capitalism" implies strife, conflict, competition. The aggregate Committee that the political State is, being a committee of, by and for capitalists, is rent with strife. Where the grade of parliamentary polish is low, the strife manifests itself in a bandying of objurgations and obscenities, frequently in an exchange of blows, as, for instance, in the Austrian parliament; where the grade of parliamentary polish is higher, as in the United States parliament, such manifestations, tho' not unknown, are less frequent. In our political State the strife is conducted less loudly; yet it is there. Laws, such as they be, are the equalizations of the strifes.

Very much like the accounts of Oriental feuds, which consist in a series of minings and counter minings, do the accounts read of the history of our Laws. Each Interest seeks to overreach the other, knows that the other interests are equally in

the game, and that they know each is aware of the fact. In the mutual strife of all to overreach each, and each to overreach all, each Interest seeks to preponderate on the Committee. The thing cannot be done without “campaign contributions” and the wise expenditure of the same. It follows that “they all do it,” and know it, too.

Why then the clatter for “publicity”? A moral impulse it certainly is not—the supreme impulse of one and all is to overreach the others. A wise impulse, born of experience, it certainly is not—one and all know that campaign “contributions” is a necessary, an unavoidable thing, which, being unavoidable and necessary, should not and cannot be, legislated out of existence. Why, then, the clatter; why the thunderous applause that accompanied the passing of the bill in the House? The reason of the clatter is the increasing necessity felt by the Interests to film-flam the Working Class, and the abiding belief in the Working Class’s flim-flamity.

Like International Peace Congresses with their Hague Courts of Arbitration, Laws providing for publicity of campaign contributions and expenditures are moves to keep the masses in false gaze—only that and nothing more of practical effect.

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