

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 125.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

RELAPSES AND RECOVERY.

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IN a review of the present situation in France—where the breath of physical force that is inseparable from Unionism and that, in France, naturally assumes the aspect of military force, is degenerating into Anarchy pure and simple, and is thereby disturbing the Socialist or Labor Movement,—the *Hamburger Echo*, organ of the German Social Democrats of Hamburg, observes:

“When France, the motherland of revolutions and of Socialism, had finally wrestled herself forward to the stage of a democratic Republic, the expectation was general that, at all events aided by the bourgeois republic, an accelerated step forward would be struck by Socialism. But what have we seen? After the political power of the Socialist Movement had risen so gigantically that, when the Republic was threatened by reactionary powers, and the Socialist Movement alone was able to block the path of Reaction, vain-glorious schemers utilized their influence in the party so as to swing themselves upon the party’s shoulders into governmental office, and then betray the party in shameful manner. It may be stated as a psychologic fact that the conduct of the Millerands and the Briands was calculated to disgust class-conscious workingmen also with political action. The relapse into non-political ‘Socialism’ and Bakuninism is but the reaction from the rene-gateship that is so extensive to-day among the bourgeois-statesmen.”

In America, the Socialist Movement has not yet reached the stage of powerful crystallization that it had reached in France at the epoch mentioned in the above passage, when Socialism was strong enough to bar the advance of Reaction against the Republic. Nevertheless with such modifications as politically climatic differences bring about, we are seeing in America the conditions that the *Hamburger Echo* deplores in France.

The breath of military physical force which, as *The People* has fully explained, naturally, and legitimately enough, animates Syndicalism in France, has, in America been extended beyond even the point that it has been latterly extended to in

France. Extended, in France, to a denial of the effectiveness of all political activity; constituting, in France, a positive relapse into Bakuninism, the breath of armed physical force—in America a robustious absurdity, or manifestation of sentimentalism, as a starting point—has, in America, relapsed far behind the Bakunin stage of the Movement, or of civilization. It has relapsed back to the low plane of savagery, immorality and degradation, here correctly self-styled the Bums, hence its nickname the Bummery,—and the relapse is, here as in France, not a bolt from the clear sky, but a psychologic reaction.

In France, the reaction was from the treason of the Millerands and Briands—schemers who panted after public office and used the Socialist Movement as a stepping stone. Here, in America, the reaction is against the Socialist party's defection from the path of the Revolution; or, to express the matter from another angle of view, the Socialist party's fatuity of imagining it can circumvent the Beast of Capitalism with hymns. America being the younger country, the relapse is here worse.

At such crises, the sheet-anchor of the militant Socialist is the teaching of philosophy not to allow any evil act of men to cause grief. What the acts of men cause the militant to do is to inquire into the reason for the evil act. From the inquiry strength is gathered. The cause of the relapse into Bummery in America, as for the relapse into Bakuninism in France, is one that CAN be prevented—and prevented it WILL BE—and it IS being prevented—and the Movement will resume, as already it is resuming, its triumphant march towards the Socialist Republic, when its flanks will be unharried in its march by the wolves and hyenas that Error attracts from the jungles.

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Uploaded April 2014

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