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EDITORIAL

STILL IN FORMING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE proclamation of the Duma to the Russian people¹ is probably the best that could be done under the circumstances—but that best shows that the Russian Revolution is still in forming.

“Not a kopek to the Government and not a soldier to the Army” is the language of a strike. The strike against an employer, or even against the employing class, is not a method of revolution, it is a method of warfare within existing conditions. It is a tacit recognition of the existing social order. It is more, it is in the nature of a declaration of loyalty to the system in force. The workingman who goes on strike does first of all leave in the hands of the capitalist the plant of production. By that mere fact he admits that the employer is rightful owner, at least as much is implied. The revolutionary act of the Working Class—should that act become necessary by the attempt of the Capitalist Class of America to thwart the fiat of the ballot—will not be a strike. It will be the proclamation—issued by the central authority of the integrally organized industrial proletariat—locking out the Capitalist Class from the Nation’s industries, pronouncing itself the Government. “Not a kopek to the Government and not a soldier to the Army” is tantamount to the acceptance of the Czar’s camarilla as the recognized center and source of authority.

Nevertheless, though a strike is not a revolution, it may lead directly thereto. So likewise, though the political strike, declared by the late Duma, would seem to proceed from the theory of allegiance to Peterhof, it may be, it probably is, the forerunning whistle of the hurricane that is to follow close upon its heels. That hurricane will be signaled, not by a warning of “not a kopek to the Government and not a soldier to the Army,” but by a summons of the national resources in funds and

¹ [Not included here. To be appended at a later date.—R.B.]

men, in wealth and arms, to enforce the lock-out pronounced upon the Czar's Regime. It will be the manifesto not of subjects regarding their Sovereign, but of the Sovereign People deposing the Despot and his rule, and themselves asserting supremacy.

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