

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 7, NO. 225.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1907.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

THE REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FROM Europe come the tidings of the execution by the Terrorists of the Governor of Penza, S.A. Alexandrovsky. Items of this nature are no longer “incidents.” They are continuous. They follow one another with a rhythmic precision that tells its tale eloquently, loudly, convincingly. That tale is that the revolution in Russia has come to stay; that all claim of its having been suppressed is false. Progress being resisted with brute force, brute force answers brute force, and answers it not with the hot-headedness of anger, but with the deliberation of thought.

The rhythmic melody that comes from Russia in the forcible taking off of one prop after another of the barbaric Czaristic regime, tells the tale that the revolution has become incarnate.

Not to the American adaptations of the Russian Czaristic regime alone, also to the American adaptations of the victims of the Russian Czaristic regime does the Russian revolution preach its lesson.

To the former, the American capitalist class, which is re-establishing on our soil in Idaho the institution of the Bastille, the institution overthrown even farther *{sic}* back, nearly seven centuries ago at Runnymede—to the American capitalist class that is receding step by step from the heights conquered by civilization, and step by step is dropping back into the methods of barbarism—to that class the Russian revolution is sounding the warning that where a free press is throttled, the surreptitious lampoon leaps into life; that where free speech is muzzled whispered attack becomes inevitable; that where the right of free assemblage is denied conspiracy is engendered; that where the peaceful method of trial of strength, the ballot, is nipped the bullet, the dagger, or the bomb are the only response. Barbarism breeds barbarism. Where the methods of barbarism are resorted to in

the interest of barbarism, corresponding methods of barbarism become the handmaid of Progress and the new birth, though retarded, inevitably triumphs, and triumphs in the massacre of the barbaric upholders of barbarism.

On the other hand, to the American proletariat the Russian revolution is illustrating the barrenness of aims without the proper organization through which to carry out those aims, and the fruitfulness of aims incorporated in organization. The revolutionary spirit has long animated large areas of the Russian population. Like electricity scattered in the air, diluted in the billows of the oceans, tingling in the clouds overhead, the revolutionary aim of Russia long remained ineffective. It broke out like an occasional thunderbolt, and reaction resumed its confident sway. Not so now. Not so because the soul of the revolution has at last been furnished with a body through which to act. Organization has enabled the revolution to become incarnate. From that instant the revolution went into permanent session; that instant sealed the doom of the Czaristic regime.

As in Russia so in America; as with the victims of Russian Czarism so with the American proletariat, the victims of American Czarism. True to the Marxian principle that the class instinct lies latent in the breast of the proletariat and needs but to be touched, the revolutionary electric current of the nation has long lain diffused among the masses. It was barren. It produced only occasional, disconnected “outbreaks.” Its barrenness lay in the absence of proper organization. What the organization must be in which the soul of the revolution must incarnate in each different country depends upon the social atmosphere of each. As the Laplander clothes himself in bearskin and the denizen of the equator in palm leaves, so does the revolution clothe itself in different countries in different organizations. In the social atmosphere of Russia the organization is imperatively Terrorist; in the social atmosphere of America the organization imperatively demanded is the integrally industrial economic structure of the working class which, as the I.W.W. is struggling to become{,} contemplates the unification of the proletariat on the POLITICAL as well as on the INDUSTRIAL field—on the political, to the end that the peaceful method of trial {of} strength place the movement upon the civilized plane; on the industrial, to the double end that first that physical force be ready to meet eventual methods of barbarism, secondly, that the structure of the Socialist

Republic be ready to replace that of Capitalist Despotism.

The Russian Revolution has the floor. 'Tis not its fault if its teaching pass unperceived to the American capitalist and the working man.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded August 2009

slpns@slp.org