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EDITORIAL

WHY A POLITICAL GOVERNMENT AT ALL?

By DANIEL DE LEON

L *A Follette's* of the 10th of the current month has an excellent little four-paragraph article entitled "Need for a Tariff Commission." The excellency of the facts alleged in the article deny the title.

The substance of the facts alleged is to the effect that the members of the House of Representatives were deceived by false figures furnished from Germany on the labor cost in the Empire. The article refers to this incident as one of many that go to prove the unreliability of a Congressman's information and the necessity of men who know what they are talking about.

All this is true. If legislation is on railroads, expert railroad men flock to Washington in order to coach our legislators. If the proposed legislation is on pure food, the same thing happens. Crowds of food producing capitalists find it incumbent upon themselves to enlighten Congress on the subject in hand. It is so with all other bills. According as the subject, the men posted thereon realize the danger of leaving the legislators uninformed. All this being so, the question comes, Why a political government at all?

The story is told of a German village, during the season of ferment in 1847, where the people, enraged at the censorship of the press, paraded the streets with placards demanding "Free Press and the Censorship." To demand a Tariff Commission without demanding the abrogation of Congress is like the demand for a free press AND the censorship.

The increasing demands for Commissions outside of Congress attest to this fact that increasingly people are realizing the utter inefficiency of the Political Government. The government the necessity for which is increasingly felt is the purely Economic Government—the Government made up of men who do not need to be coached in the respective departments that they represent, men, in short,

directly chosen by and from such departments of production or service.

Such a Government will, is bound to come about. But it will not come about via the route proposed by *La Follette's*. To reach the goal by that route would be like making two bites of the cherry—first, to supplement the Political Government of capitalist “captains of industry”; and then, to supplant the latter, who captain nothing but schemes to plunder the real workers, with the Government of the Union representatives themselves. For the identical reason that the political representatives of the do-nothing class are not fit to legislate, the do-nothing class is itself unfit.

The Political Government must go. The Industrial Government must come.

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