

EDITORIAL

## THE BRITISH CRISIS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**ITH awe-inspiring solemnity and the fit setting of “peeresses, many in evening dress and blazing with jewels,” the British House of Peers took on November 30 a leap, avowedly revolutionary, by rejecting the budget, and thereby compelling an appeal to the electorate, nominally on the budget itself, in point of fact upon the still lingering feudal prerogatives which the Lords hold.

When Prerogative acts revolutionarily the aim is Reaction.

Is the Lords’ act an instance of the blind haughtiness that precedes a fall? Or is it an evidence of thorough grasp of a situation, and conscious ascentency?

Long has British Lordshipness, the material beneficiary of the “double House” parliamentary system, prided itself on its system’s “glory”; long has a parrot world, British and non-British, parroted the glorification, and, attributing creative power to matters of form, aped the “double House” system.

The “double House” system must go. Its demise is in the cards of social evolution. Originally the sole source of legislation, a second, or “Lower” House was a concession democracyward made by the one-time sole, and subsequent “Upper House.” The logic of events points, in such instances, to the eventual casting off of the Concessor—as inevitably as the Crown’s, the original Concessor’s doom is sealed. Civilized society draws upon itself for the governmental, or administrative powers, that it requires. Civilized society, accordingly, needs no Concessor. So long as in society there is Concessor and Concessee, a conflict rages between the two—the former to recover its concession, the latter to cast the Concessor off. The conflict is long; the ups and downs many.

Long has it been maintained in behalf of the British people that a revolution is peacefully shaping within the womb of the commonweal, and, when ripe, will as

peacefully be accomplished. The first step in that direction has long been heralded as the ending of the House of Lords.

Is the world at the threshold of such an inspiring spectacle?

The “Lower” House has done its part well. The “Upper” House has not been found wanting: with 350 votes to 75 it joined issue, squarely.

“Hic Rhodus, hic salta!”—such is the classic call of Social Evolution upon the British electorate. Or, in the vernacular—“Now, toe the chalk mark, and show your mettle!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded January 2011

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