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EDITORIAL

## POUREN FREE.

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**A**NXIOUS to believe the best about men, thereby giving its full meed of credit to the Genius of the Age, we look upon the action of Commissioner Hitchcock, in declaring Jan Janoff Pouren guiltless of the felonies preferred against him by the Russian Government who sought Pouren's extradition, as acts born of the generous impulses that ever are aroused in the breast of the true by the aggression of despotism.

Nevertheless, after applauding the Commissioner's act, and congratulating Pouren upon his final liberation, a word of warning is pre-eminently in season.

The release of Pouren was not wholly due to Commissioner Hitchcock's manliness. It was due in part to the slimy diplomacy of the Czar's Government. The iniquity attempted upon Pouren had stirred a wave of indignation that went far beyond Pouren himself. It contemplated nothing short of the abrogation of the Russian extradition treaty, that furnished ground for such dark manoeuvres as Pouren came nearly falling a victim to. Rather than risk such a slap in its face, as the abrogation of the treaty, the Russian Government relaxed its grip upon Pouren. To this Pouren's freedom must be in part ascribed. It was a diplomatic move.

The hour of rejoicing often is the hour of danger. No joy at Pouren's victory should turn our people's eye away from the point of danger that the Pouren case so forcibly pointed out.

It is sufficient of a disgrace for our Nation to continue in friendly relations with the bloodstained ruler of Russia. Sufficient unto the day is the danger of contamination from a Government with which murder is a system, spying a necessity, and provocation to murder a matter of routine. The disgrace and the danger should be kept down to a minimum. This consummation demands the revocation of the existing extradition treaty with Russia, and the framing of a new

treaty with such safeguards that the tainted breath and touch of the Moscovite can not corrupt it to the ends of the organized felony which Russian rule represents.

“Pouren free!” is a shout of joy that should furnish fresh impulse to that other shout—“Abrogate the extradition treaty with Russia!”

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

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