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EDITORIAL

PABLO IGLESIAS ELECTED.

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YESTERDAY'S Madrid despatches, to the effect that the Cabinet which overthrew the clerical-monarchist assassin of Francisco Ferrer, Premier Maura, is putting on the screws to enforce compliance with the laws affecting religious congregations, and that the congregations that fail to obey will be dealt with as illegal,—these despatches add point to, and to them is added point by the gladsome tidings brought in by the Madrid *El Socialista* of the sweeping victory won by the Socialist Republican coalition ticket in Madrid, resulting in the election of Pablo Iglesias, the Editor of *El Socialista*, to the Congress of Spain. To these despatches, together with the facts and figures now presented by *El Socialista*, there is furthermore added no slight matter for increased rejoicing by the howl of rage that goes up from the Havana Anarchist sheet *Tierra!* (Earth!) at the election of Iglesias—the “Pope,” as that paper calls Iglesias, of “Spanish authoritarian Socialism,” and whom it denounces with Anarchistic irrationality as a “police spy,” and “more than anyone else, a supporter of the King, the Bank, and the Church.”



PABLO IGLESIAS (1850–1925)

Social Science, the same as its parallel Natural Science, bothers little about the Why of a law. It centers its efforts in the ascertaining of the law. Whatever the reason thereof, the ascertained law of social evolution is that the republican form of Government is a necessary link in the chain of evolution from the clerico-monarchism of feudalism to Socialism. There may be, frequently there are sub-links to be traversed, such, for instance, as the constitutional monarchy in various degrees of clipped powers. Essentially, the republican form of political rule must be

reached: it reflects, in the ascending stages of their development, the ripening economic, that is, material possibilities for the total wiping out of economic classes: it simultaneously, by casting off the mysticisms of clericalism and of the divine source of headship, teaches, drills and habituates the mind to the fact that Power comes from below, not from above. The clerico-monarchy is a bar, the bourgeois republic is {a} gate to Progress.

Not very unlike Russia to-day, at the other extreme of Europe, in Spain, the path of Progress is blocked by what may substantially be termed clerico-monarchism. The recent governmental barbarities, centering in the assassination of Ferrer, typify the situation. Against that barrier the up-sprouting progressive elements of Spain have been long vainly beating their heads. The republican attempt, made in 1873, was short-lived. A spark of the Socialist Movement in central Europe kindled, in the meantime, into life a Socialist organization in the land. If the barrier of the clerico-monarchy was too high to scale and too thick to pierce through even by radical bourgeoisism, it was obviously impregnable to Socialism. Useful though the Spanish Socialist movement was in the way of general progressive propaganda, and even in the way of a drill administered to the intellect of the proletariat, the immediately practical effect was to keep divided the progressive forces, whose common needs demanded the overthrow of the clerico-monarchy. Last year's governmental atrocities planted forcibly, clearly, violently, glaringly the problem before the several elements whose path the clerico-monarchy blocked. The problem, thus presented, the result was the coalition of all the forces that demanded the Republic—Socialists and bourgeois with one common program: "Down with the Monarchy!"

No sooner was the coalition effected when the allied forces discovered that they had actually been growing more rapidly than they had imagined. The prospect of an assured step forward, possibly even immediate victory, cemented the pact. Coalition tickets were set up in all the industrial centers. Election day came. The coalition poll, though not yet given for the whole country, was heavy in Barcelona, Valencia, Malaga, Bilbao and all other approximately industrial centers—and, in Madrid, it swept the stakes. All the six coalition candidates, Iglesias among them, were elected by a vote ranging from 40,000 to 42,000, while the clerico-monarchist candidates

were snowed under by majorities ranging from 9,000 to 10,000. Typical of the event the demonstrators on the night of the election paraded the streets of Madrid singing the *Marseillaise*, the song to the tune of which the clerico-monarchy of neighboring France was torn down, and also singing the more recent *Internationale*, at once the death dirge of the bourgeois republic and paeon of Socialism—songs the notes of which must have fallen heavily upon the ears of the clerico-monarchists shivering behind their closed lattices.

With the echoes of the songs, that celebrated this great historic event for Spain and the cause of man's emancipation, still reverberating on the air, the Havana Anarchist sheet, quoted from in the opening paragraph of this article, contributes, unintentionally, of course, a timely and glowing tribute to the loftiness and soundness of Socialism, and to the worthiness of Iglesias, while it, of course, also unintentionally, but pursued by the fatality of its "Cause," makes a timely exhibition of the lip-wisdom of Anarchy. It sets forth that, in a letter dated last August 17 to his friend R. Clerbaut of the *Peuple*, the official organ of the Belgian Socialist party, Pablo Iglesias said: "With regard to the burning down of convents you were right in your suppositions. The Socialists took no manner of hand. Had they found themselves in condition to act, our comrades would have undertaken acts of greater importance and of greater advantage to our cause"; and the sheet comments upon this passage as follows: "Whence the conclusion that the Spanish Socialists did nothing because of their not being in condition to act."

Here is Anarchy well contrasted with Socialism. Socialism's conception of class-expropriation, has no place for arson, any more than for murder, burglary, or petty theft; and soundly does Iglesias put it that, had the Spanish Socialists been in condition to act, their activity would have been expended upon more worthy objects. Of such a posture the crippled mind of Anarchy has no conception. It does not know, it never learned that, as the bomb which blows up one Czar only crowns his successor, the fagot which burns down one convent only raises a new one. Anger, hatred, rage—in short, the feelings that breed irrational and barren acts are the animating breath of Anarchy.

The invectives from Anarchist sources merge into the wrathful sputterings of the clerico-monarchists; the two together constitute a fit orchestral setting to the

whizz of the first telling shot fired by the progressive elements of Spain into the fortifications of the clerico-monarchy—a shot all the weightier coming from Madrid itself, and given added efficacy by the election of Pablo Iglesias.

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