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EDITORIAL

LA FOLLETTE IS MOVING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHEN the late extra session of Congress adjourned it left on the political boards of the land just one commanding and controlling figure—Senator Robert Marion La Follette.

Senator La Follette's distinguished conspicuousness lies not merely in the fact of his having routed the mossbacks in the Senate who sought to sneer him down, and snubbed him. The Wisconsin Senator's conspicuousness lies in the methods by which he attained supremacy; and his methods reveal a mental evolution which the Socialist is constrained to applaud. Of this praiseworthy mental evolution the strongest evidence was given by Senator La Follette's closing speech of the session, delivered on August 21, and climaxed by the passage in which the principle was set forth that Congress, in its relation to the people, occupied the same position as did the board of directors of the stockholders of a corporation.

This is an error. It is a sociologic error. But it belongs to the class of errors that are buds to sound reasoning.

Congress, being in its very nature a political body, can not be a Board of Directors. What it is, in fact, is a Board of Strategy. A board for the physical coercion of a ruled class. What Congress—meaning thereby the central administrative office of the Nation—should be is, indeed, a sort of Board of Directors; but then the structure of Congress must be re-cast from bottom up. Not members from territorial demarcations, embracing a variety of industries, but members of the several industries, which jointly. make up the Nation, would then be the component parts of Congress.

The striking feature of Senator La Follette's erroneous estimate of what Congress is, is that the error implies a sense of what Congress should be. A goal determines the means thereto. In order to reach the goal of a National industrial administrative authority, the political authority must first be overthrown. In order to

overthrow that, the Socialist Republic must be ready to step in and take the reins of rule.

Senator La Follette may stop moving. In the meantime we shall give him credit for being on the move.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org