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EDITORIAL

OLIG-ARCHY—MON-ARCHY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ROOSEVELT sounded his trumpet blast at Columbus; Taft sounded his counter-blast at Toledo. Issue is now joined.

What is the issue?

Roosevelt's declaration that "it is absurd to endeavor to regulate business in the interest of the public by means of long drawn lawsuits without any accompaniment of ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL" is about as clear a pronouncement as one can wish that, in the opinion of the declarer, the old methods of bourgeois representative government, together with its "checks and balances" of power, are no longer applicable to modern conditions, and that ONE-man rule, "administrative control," has become a necessity.

Taft's declaration that "the question uppermost in the minds" of most of the electorate, if they are to pass upon the validity of Court decisions pronouncing a law unconstitutional, will "necessarily be whether the law is on its merits a good law, rather than whether it conflicts with the Constitution"—such a declaration is tantamount to saying that a good law can be in violation of a Constitution that is supposed to "establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence and promote the general Welfare," as the introduction to the Constitution sets forth;—such a declaration amounts to delegating supreme authority to Courts;—such a declaration about as clear a pronouncement as one can wish that, in the opinion of this declarer, the old methods of bourgeois representative government, with its system of Legislatures elected by the people, have been outgrown by the country, and that modern conditions demand government by a select few.

In the Greek republics, as in Old Rome, there was at first "democracy" for the ruling class. There were Legislatures, Judiciaries and Executives. But conditions changed; and the change was reflected in the concepts of Government. The safety of

the Ruling Class then being endangered by the existing form of Government, that form had to yield. The more radicals, they called themselves by names equivalent to “progressive,” strained for governmental power in ONE MAN, who was to be responsible “to the whole people”; the less radicals, the conservative of them, recoiled before the ONE MAN idea, but afraid of the POPULAR idea, compromised. They lodged power with what was called the “classics,” the highest taxpayers, that is, a select few.

The issue, as now presented by the two leading and warring figures of the still dominant political party in the country, is the issue made familiar by the history of the civil strifes in the Greek Republics and the republic of Old Rome.

The standard raised by Roosevelt bears the motto “Mon-Archy.”

The standard raised by Taft bears the motto “Olig-Archy.”

And, over the heads of both, there waves a common standard, the standard inscribed “Down with the Republic!”

No wonder the warring factions in the Republican party feel hopelessly entangled, being both heavily handicapped. Neither dares say against the other all that it means. The two have a common cause in that they start from the identical premises, yet bitter is the feud between them, as feuds ever are between elements which, wanting ultimately the same thing, fear that the other will endanger the common goal.

The actual issue within the Republican party, more clearly than any issue heretofore presented by the Ruling Class, of the land, is an issue in which the Working Class can participate only as “food for cannon.” The actual issue within the Republican party, more clearly than any issue heretofore presented by the Ruling Class of the land, is one that summons the Working Class to the rescue of the Republic—in the only manner that the Republic can now be rescued—by turning it, from the political monstrosity that it has become, into the Industrial Commonwealth, the Socialist Republic which the Age calls for.

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