

EDITORIAL

## A TELL-TALE AGREEMENT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**ASHINGTON despatches announce a conference of Republican Senators at which a legislative programme has been agreed upon for the immediate future.

Shortly after last November's election there was another conference for a similar purpose. The conference adjourned sine die, having failed to agree upon a programme. The views were "too divergent." The conferees parted without accomplishing aught.

Barely three months rolled over that first meeting and disagreement, when a second meeting is held; and lo and behold, this time an agreement is reached.

Upon learning of the tidings, one asks, Which yielded, the Progressives or the Stalwarts, or did both yield something, and enter into an "agreement between gentlemen"?

The planks of the agreement answer the question. They all embody "La Follette measures." The Stalwarts surrendered.

With Woodrow Wilson, Bryan-impelled and self-propelled, to introduce Paradise on earth under the wings of the bourgeois social system of production for sale; and with the Stalwart Republican opposition, La Follette-led, bent upon the same errand, one of two things may be expected:—

Either, a "meeting of the forces" in the kind of meetings that resolve themselves into the meeting of the Killkennyites, with the sparks flying meteorically all over the land;

Or, a "meeting of the forces," in the kind of meetings out of which competitors emerge bound by "agreements between gentlemen."

The sincerity and earnest of Woodrow Wilson is not to be doubted; as little is to

be doubted the sincerity and earnest of La Follette. Another thing that is not to be doubted in either is a certain amount of Common Sense.

Woodrow Wilson's Common Sense will tell him that three years is too short a span in which to set up, carry out and perfect a policy. He needs time—beyond 1916.

La Follette's Common Sense will do no less for him. Unless Wilson blunders egregiously, La Follette can hardly expect to get him on the hip quickly enough to be of much use in 1916.

Bourgeois politicians are no balloons in the air. They are pretty well tied down to the earth, and the ropes that hold them down are not in hands too numerous to count. The agreement, arrived at between the La Follette Progressives and the Root Stalwarts, justifies the suspicion that the same extends to the camp of Woodrow Wilson, and that what it really denotes is that the two sets have entered into an alliance, defensive and offensive, to eliminate The Colonel, and, in the meantime to spar for position in 1916.

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