

EDITORIAL

## THE ROOSEVELT IDEAL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**C**OL. Roosevelt's Navy Day speech at Newport on July 2 contains this passage:

“Let it be understood that every man who votes to stop building up the navy or stop fortifying the canal is voting to put us in a position where we cannot even resent insult, let alone ourselves insulting others with impunity.”

To have the power to “insult others” is not the Roosevelt ideal in all its fullness. His full-orbed ideal is the power to “insult others with impunity.”

The statement is the best bit of self-photography that The Colonel has yet struck off.

Like master like man. A good man attracts good men around him. A brave man attracts the brave. A learned man the learned. So does the bully—the individual who insults the weak, hence, can insult with impunity.

In photographing himself Col. Roosevelt has photographed his admirers. By photographing his own group Col. Roosevelt has confirmed the principle that the bully is not only a coward, he is stupid besides—ready to insult; readier to insult when impunity accompanies the insult; and readiest to say so, not because of boldness, but because of stupidity.

The passage from the Navy Day speech should be emblazoned on the Bull Moose emblem. The profiles of the leaders, female and male, of Bull Moosia stand out clear in the photograph. Insult with impunity is what the proletariat has to expect from that quarter.

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