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EDITORIAL

THE COMING CHORUS OF WORDS AND DEEDS.

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FAMILIAR do the melody, and also the words to the melody, sound that is now being sung into the ears of the Duma; nor is the dumb-show, going on between the Czar and his beloved Black Hundred, a sight unknown to the stage on which the American capitalist class performs its antics. Speaking through the mouth of Prince Mestchersky the ruling class of Russia is warning the Duma to “stop,” to become “cool and moderate”; to “abandon the path of revolution” and to adhere to its “legitimate sphere.” Simultaneously the Czar is reported to be the recipient of “avalanches of despatches” urging him to impose a censorship on the (“}treasonable speeches” of the members of the Duma.—How very familiar all this sounds and looks! Strike out “Duma” and put in its place “Industrial Workers of the World,” and both tune and dumb-show are “American” up to the handle.

No more than the Russian class, whose views are voiced by Prince Mestchersky, objects to a Duma which will not touch with impious hands the tabernacle of the LAW, does the American railroads-mines-packing-houses-factories-etc.-owning capitalist class object to any gathering or organization of workingmen which will not interfere with “THE ORDER OF THINGS.” As dear to the heart of Czarism as is a Duma which will meekly accept as “unalterable” the regime under which the Russian people have been plundered and deported, or even hanged, by “administrative orders,” so dear to the heart of the American capitalist is a labor organization which will sit at the feet of Belmont, humbly pick up the crumbs dropped to it, accept them thankfully as the “Share of Labor,” and quietly pocket the physical and moral kicks administered to it for dessert as the “Rights of Capital.” But—as “illegitimate” as the conduct is promptly branded of a Duma which calls a spade a spade, tyranny tyranny, plunder plunder, and which puts its cap to the

abolition of the mischief, just so “illegitimate” does the American capitalist promptly brand the conduct of a Union which calls things by their names, designates capitalism as robbery of the producers, capitalist government as organized brigandage, the capitalist class as enthroned Skip-Jacks, and which drills itself to uproot the evil. Czarism and American Capitalism speak the identical language, sing the identical tune, they also perform the identical acts. The language of the members of the Duma that does not square with the comforts of the Czar’s Establishment is pronounced “treasonable” and the censorship is demanded upon it; the language of that labor organization that threatens the “vested rights” of the capitalist class is without hesitation pronounced “treason,” immediately the capitalist press vouches for “the public sentiment that feels outraged” at such “treason,” and the censorship, adapted to American conditions, is, not simply demanded, but forthwith enforced—witness the speedy kidnapping, deportation and incarceration of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, and their detention in jail.

Thus American Capitalism and Russian Czarism are discovered to be two bodies with hearts that beat as one, and mouths that twitter the identical roundelay. Is it at all likely that the toilers of the two countries will fail to take the hint, and, what by example, what by the stress of the evolutionary process, join their voices and their hands, sing in chorus the identical tune, and execute the identical act of casting off their shoulders the barnacle class they have so long staggered under? No doubt whatever. They will not fail to take the hint. The prophesy, uttered by the Seer against Jerusalem, and fulfilled to the letter, was uttered, then and for all time, upon all Jerusalems, all social systems that have ripened rotten-ripe for destruction—the Working Class Jehovah will stretch over the Jerusalem of Capital the line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; it will wipe this Jerusalem also as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down.

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

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