

EDITORIAL

THE PRECIOUS JEWEL ON THE TOAD'S HEAD.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE report, recently published in these columns of the wide-spreading movement set on foot by the Russian Police to corrupt and demoralize the Labor Movement of that country, presents a sad picture. But the picture is far from one-sided. After granting all the distressing features of the picture, it yet allows most encouraging facts to peep through the black clouds.

Has anyone ever heard of tyrants or usurpers aim at anything else but the enjoyment of their powers? Surely not. Fruition, and that to the fullest extent, is their sole aim. It follows, as a matter of course therefrom, that physical or mental exertion, for the pleasure of it, is the last thing either tyrants or their lackeys hanker after. They want rest, sloth. If, then, they are seen to display mental or physical effort, it is plain they do so, not out of fondness therefor, but because their fruition is threatened. Exertion of whatever nature by tyrants and their understrappers is a countermove on their part. It is a move against some other move that their instincts tell them forebodes them no good. Thus the degree of activity set forth from such quarters is a good gauge of the degree and power of the danger they seek to parry. Applying these principles to the move of the Russian Police, the conclusion is unavoidable that the Labor Movement, even in Russia, is developing such strength as to seriously alarm the ruling class, and to cause it to set its lackeys at hard work to dam the tide rising against them.

Surely, this cheerful fact is worth all the sorrows that the temporary successes of a Zubatow can inflict. It is an assurance that the peoples ARE moving, and that they are moving so effectively that the cunningest schemes are considered none too cunning to throw across the path of the moving masses.

If the measure of this motion is such as it is in Russia, what must it not be elsewhere, and how tremendous are not its possibilities.

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