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EDITORIAL

RUSSIAN EXTRADITION.

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SECRETARY ROOT'S refusal to surrender the Russian revolutionist [Christian Rudowitz](#) to the Government of the Czar is, in a way, cause for congratulation. In another way, Secretary Root's decision may be, probably is, cause for increased popular alertness.

It is not unlikely that the Secretary's action was due greatly to a relaxation on the part of Russia itself in its pressure for the extradition of Rudowitz. There is ample reason to suspect that the Russian Government, warned by the rising tidal wave of indignation that demands the revocation of the extradition treaty with Russia, has found it advisable to "throw a tub to the whale," so to speak, and, by "letting up" in the case of Rudowitz, probably in the case of Pouren also, is seeking to lull into security the awakening sense of danger in America—expecting a later and more favorable opportunity to enforce the "sleepers" that lie cunningly imbedded in the present treaty, a treaty in which the wide awake sniffed danger from the start. One of the evidences of this purpose is to be found in the alacrity, manifest by some papers, that have long been under suspicion of being subsidized by St. Petersburg, to argue that, Secretary Root's decision "should put a quietus to the agitation for the abrogation of the extradition treaty with Russia." The argument with which these papers seek to back up their views with only renders their views all the more suspicious. They argue that the United States "should not be expected to place itself on a plane with Morocco by refusing to give Russia those facilities for apprehending her fugitive criminals which all civilized nations grant each other."

So far from descending to the plane of Morocco, the United States would rise from a plane, below even Morocco, to which the extradition treaty with Russia lowers it.

It has been well pointed out that Queen Victoria, who lived at the time when the present extradition treaty with Russia was jammed through the Senate, could be murdered and her murderer could not be extradited from the United States; whereas the cunningly worded clauses of the treaty with Russia would compel the extradition of a revolutionary who, answering the Czar's bayonet thrusts with a bomb blew the gentleman up, would have to be surrendered. It has also been pointed out with a strong color of truth that the Russian treaty was a Standard Oil connivance—the price paid for Russian concessions to the Trust. It has furthermore been pointed out that Russia's is the only Government that dares, and whom we allow, to discriminate against our citizens in the matter of passports, and that, consequently, not the extradition treaty alone should be abrogated, but all diplomatic intercourse broken off with a Government that presumes to treat us, not even like Moroccans, but like Hottentots.

The point gained through Secretary Root's decision must not be allowed to be lost a hundredfold by relaxing the agitation for, at least, the abrogation of an extradition treaty that is a badge of shame to our nation.

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