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EDITORIAL

SENATORIALIZING THE HOUSE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

CONGRESS, its Republican and Democratic members, have agreed to a House membership of 435.

What is the agreement a sign of?

Is it a sign of goodness, the dissolution of the body for all time being due within three weeks, and all these fire-eating Congressmen being anxious to put on the trappings and the shows of peace? Hardly. Levity, shallowness, true enough, characterize these gentlemen. Still, agreement on the figure 435 means something else than mere agreement. It means something vastly more important than a resolution to be good. What may it mean?

Before Congress sat down to the work of re-apportionment for Congress Districts, all the members came to an agreement. It was to the effect that no State was to be reduced in representation.

Is this so important?

Yes. It amounts to a recasting of the Constitutional clauses insofar as the constituencies of the House are concerned.

To start upon the work of re-apportionment with an agreement not to reduce the Representation of any State is tantamount to declaring, that, from now on, no State shall have a representation below the one it now holds. Such is the posture that the Constitution makes it imperative upon Congress to observe towards the Senate; it is the posture that the Constitution makes it imperative upon Congress not to observe towards the House.

Quite a tart sight—the Congress blazing the path unconstitutionally for an unconstitutional reapportionment.

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