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**EDITORIAL** 

## "LAW" AND "REBELLION".

By DANIEL DE LEON

HE Duma has met. The Czar has delivered his oration from the throne. The Lower House has proceeded to organize, and its several delegations are at work drawing up their special clauses to be inserted in the answer to the Crown. It needs no strain of the imagination to picture the frame of mind in which the Romanoff Despot, ensconced behind his grenadiers in Peterhoff Palace, looks upon the attitude and performances of the parliament that is housed in the Tauride Palace.

Russia has been governed by LAW. There is no country on the face of the globe that is not, or could escape being so. Russia, not being a part of the spheres but a terrestrial affair, partakes of the essential features of terrestrialities. One of these features is that she is LAW-GOVERNED. The form of the LAW, the method of its enactment, the procedure of its enforcement—these are matters of detail. They do not affect the main question. By the organic LAW of Russia the Throne, together with its Grand-Ducal establishments, is the fountain of the LAW. The Throne is Parliament, Executive, Judiciary. It debates, it considers, it amends, it moves the "previous question" and it enacts; it also thereupon executes, adjudicates and enforces obedience. At least it was so up to now. During all this time, and up to now, the mouthpieces of Russian LAW have pointed with pride to the dazzling record of Russian LAW. "See," they declared, "how mighty Russia has become—thanks to her LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS; she may not have won battles on the seas, and may not always have won battles on land, but the power and the glory of her arms have asserted themselves mightily in the affairs of Europe, at many a critical juncture—thanks to her LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS; behold her stately, superb palaces, contemplate the splendor of her court, gaze at the long figures of the loans which she can raise, and all of which attest to the prosperity of her people, the faces

of whom shine in the oil of contentment-thanks to her LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS; admire Russia, at the top of the list of nations in point of area, of wealth, of natural resources, of glory, of happiness—thanks to her LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS!" Suddenly a meddlesome set of people seek to overthrow the LAW. A Duma, with its "Constitutional Democrats", its "Peasant Delegation", its "Socialist Radicals"—all of which are repugnant to the LAW—are bent upon ushering in a new state of things. And every feather in the LAW bristles up aghast. "These folks", so does Russian LAW now cry, "seek to assert the privilege of disorder; they seek to upturn the LAW; they seek to pull society off its hinges; they seek to overthrow all the glories and the happiness that the LAW has brought about; they are REBELS!"—There may be those who hold in contempt, as silly if not perverse, the language and the thoughts of the LAW in Russia, as these thoughts and this language are entertained by the Romanoffs and find expression among the Romanoffs. If there be any such, let him look nearer home at our own Fairbankses. He will be struck at the identity of the poise of the two sets, and he will learn no little from the identity.

The fact is that the LAW is a fluent, not a petrified affair. What is LAW to-day was REBELLION yesterday, and what is REBELLION to-day will be LAW to-morrow. LAW and REBELLION are but temporary phases of the identical thing, REBELLION ripens into LAW, and LAW breeds REBELLION, which, in turn, will again ripen into LAW, and thus on forever and for aye. The Nicholas I. owls of the LAW, screeching distractedly at the REBELLION of representative Government that is about to supplant them as LAW, are not essentially different from the Fairbanks owls of the LAW, now in force in America, as they flutter alarmed at, and invoke the aid of the Deity against the REBELLION of Socialism which likewise is destined to enthrone itself as LAW. All of which means that the LAW will prevail, which is another way of saying that the Nicholases and Fairbankses MUST GO.

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

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slpns@slp.org