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EDITORIAL

SUFFICIENT UNTO THE DAY, ETC.

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MR. WILLIAM GEORGE JORDAN has favored the press with “a New Idea in American politics” the realization of which is to accomplish a number of desirable things, among them the “securing of a fuller, freer voice of the people and to make a stronger Nation.” The New idea is the adding of a third House to the two existing ones: besides the Senate and the House of Representatives, there is to be a House of Governors, consisting of the Governors of the several States.

From Mr. Jordan’s premises, or diagnosis of the patient’s disease, the gentleman’s conclusion can not be escaped. Mr. Jordan’s diagnosis of the disease which “is creeping like a blood-poison through the body politic, threatening the very life of the Republic” is “three insidious evils that are practically one,” to wit, the “shifting, undignified, uncertain status of States’ rights.”

To others, such a diagnosis is utterly unacceptable, as utterly immaterial, irrelevant and foreign to the issue. With economic conditions under which a small minority of the population are in possession of the necessaries to labor and produce wealth; accordingly, with economic conditions under which the masses of the people are held under a modern sort of feudal servitude, to say that the evil results, admitted on all hands, flow from “shifting, undignified, uncertain States’ rights,” is as if a physician, called to the bedside of a man bleeding from a score of stabs, were to diagnose the case as one of aggravated anemia, due to “three insidious evils that are practically one,” to wit, “a mosquito on the man’s nose, another on his right temple, and a third perched on the head of the bed and washing its face preparatorily to landing on the man’s left temple.”

From such a diagnosis any absurdity may be expected as the “cure.” Legitimate, accordingly, is Mr. Jordan’s New Idea.

Sufficient unto the day is the evil of political Houses. Instead of adding to the number, amputation, the abolishment of one of the two existing ones, is what the “insidious evils that are creeping like a blood-poison through the body politic, threatening the very life of the Republic,” actually demand. And the work of amputation, once undertaken, will reveal the fact that the one remaining House must be thoroughly overhauled—turned from all aggregation of politicians, elected by territories, into a House of Representatives of useful Labor, elected by the Organized Labor of the land—turned, in other words, from a political, hence, from a barnacle concern, into an industrial, hence a useful Central Administrative Body.

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