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EDITORIAL

## WILSON'S PLIGHT—AN ADMONITION.

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**O**NE-thing-at-a-timists may—we do not say they will; we only doubtfully and diffidently say they “may”—take warning of the plight in which the President-elect finds, and the worse plight in which he will yet find himself.

Woodrow Wilson is a free trader. He is not a free trader pure and simple. He is not a free trader simply on the principle that “free trade is the best thing for trade.” Not at all. To Woodrow Wilson free trade means something vastly more comprehensive than prosperous trade. Wilson’s free trade partakes of the nature of the visionary, and, therefore, bona fide single taxer. To the political single taxer the single tax is a method of taxation, an ideal method of taxation only—that and nothing more. To the bona fide and visionary single taxer the single tax is a comprehensive scheme whereby to accomplish a social revolution—the abolition of involuntary poverty. Similarly with Woodrow Wilson’s free trade. To him free trade is the pivot upon which will revolve, the fount from which will flow, the Nation’s well-being—the disappearance of involuntary conditions of economic slavery, on the one hand, and of economic despotism, on the other; of political dependence on the part of the Many, and political usurpation, with all the ills that accompany the same, exercised by the Few.

It is no part of this article to expose the economic and sociologic fallacies that underlie the Woodrow Wilson social scheme of Free Trade. On the contrary, for the purpose of this article, the Woodrow Wilson social theory of Free Trade must be assumed to be correct. So assuming the Impossibilism of the Woodrow Wilson tactics will be best illustrated.

The Woodrow Wilson tactics are “Little-by-Little,” another term for “One-Thing-at-a-Time.” Goals shape means; political theories determine tactics. The Little-by-

Little tactics are a reflex of their political theory.

And what is Wilson's plight? Endeavoring to go slowly so as "to give society no shock," he has aroused a number of yells all around him from interests that fear inconvenience. He can not move in one direction without arousing shock-fearing hostilities in another. However slight the threatened amputation may at any moment be, the whole nervous system of capitalism writhes at the threat, and, what is still worse, the unenlightened, hence, unorganized, forces of the proletariat share the shock and writhe along with their masters. The fear of loss of profits, in one social layer, translates itself into a fear of less {loss} of jobs in other social layers.

If the policy of One-thing-at-a-time, or Little by Little, is disconcerting even with bourgeois purposes, what must not be the effect of the Little by Little policy when the purpose is revolution!

It is a feature of bourgeois "reformers" that they imagine they can introduce their schemes without shock. It is a feature of "revolutionists," who know not the nature of the seas upon which they have embarked, to succumb to the bourgeois illusion. As a consequence, so far from avoiding shocks, the revolutionist who takes his cue from the bourgeois mind, produces, not shocks merely, but series of convulsions, the usual consequence of which is to convulse society into Reaction.

The tender-handed surgeon makes ill-smelling wounds. If the wounds made by the tender-handed bourgeois reformer fester, those made by the tender-handed revolutionist make an utter mess of his job.

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