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EDITORIAL

SOCIALISM AND PROGRESS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Portuguese Socialist party has issued from Lisbon the following proclamation that reads good even in America, even in the midst of our heated presidential campaign:

“After the proclamation of the Republic, the Portuguese Socialist party held its IVth national convention, at which the resolution was adopted not to throw obstacles in the way of the new regimen, and to organize no movement under whatever form, that might endanger the stability of the Republic, or render its regular course difficult.

“The Portuguese Socialist party has persevered in this attitude, and maintained the policy, notwithstanding the Executive and the Parliament had some undemocratic tendencies, and hostile leanings towards the Labor and Socialist Movement. More recently the Central Council of the party decided to postpone to a more opportune time the organization of meetings against the laws ‘for the defence of the Republic’ which the Parliament had approved, and which had a marked reactionary and undemocratic breath. The action of the Central Council was taken in order not to hamper the Government in its operations against the new incursion of the royalists, who are aided by the criminal neglect of monarchic and reactionary Spain, which presumes to restore the monarchy in Portugal.

“The Socialists of Portugal protest at the bar of the civilized nations against the double-faced policy of the government of Canalejas, which permits the organization of the monarchic conspiracy upon Spanish soil. We raise our voice against the violation of international law of which reactionary Spain is guilty towards the Portuguese Republic. We can not tolerate the continued attempts against the dignity of the Portuguese people, which, with the price of its blood, has paid for and reared the Republic, and is firmly determined to uphold the same.

“WE ARE AND REMAIN SOCIALISTS, BUT THE REPUBLIC BEING IN DANGER, WE RUN TO ITS SUPPORT.

“In pursuit of these views, we urge upon all the Socialist parties of the International that they set on foot a campaign of protest in the columns of the Labor and Socialist press, and that they organize in their respective Parliaments and at public meetings manifestations against the odious atti-

tude of the government of Canalejas and of reactionary Spain—an attitude which, by aiding abetting the monarchist manœuvres, endeavors by such means to crush the Portuguese Republic, the only result of which effort would be the triumph of the clerical-monarchic reaction on the Iberian Peninsula.

“The fall of the Portuguese Republic would mean a step backward to all Europe, and a serious setback to the ultimate triumph of civilization. Neither the International Socialist Movement nor democratic public opinion may allow such a disaster to befall.”

At ordinary, and at critical times alike, the safeguarding of whatever conquest Civilization has made is not the least of the tasks of the Socialist.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org