

EDITORIAL

## THE DOCKERS' STRIKE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**N**O one will be able to appreciate the significance of Chancellor Lloyd-George's speech, delivered in the House of Commons on July 23 on the dockers' strike, without comparing and contrasting the same with the cartoon of the London *Pall Mall Gazette* on the same subject.

The cartoon is entitled "The Expiring Pig." It represents a pig lying in his beam-end, evidently about to give up the ghost. But the pig is a bogus, an artificial pig. Its body is made of canvas. Its legs are wooden pegs. Its visible eye is a bead. And to his supposed spinal column is fastened a tube through which wind was blown into the body, and through which the wind is now escaping. The collapsed effigy bears the inscription: "Dockers' Strike."

Evidently the *Pall Mall Gazette's* size-up of the event is that the dockers' strike was a factitious affair. A dummy without substance, and that collapsed soon as pricked.

The Chancellor's speech contained these passages: "It would be a mistake to try to deal with the dockers' strike as an isolated affair"; "Labor disputes are becoming more and more serious"; "The time has come to re-consider the whole Labor problem." These passages will suffice.

Evidently Chancellor Lloyd-George's size-up of the event is that it is everything but a factitious affair, or one that the wind has been taken out of.

Looked at no further than so far considered, the *Pall Mall Gazette* and the Chancellor stand at irreconcilable poles. Upon reading the speech to the end, the opinion must be reversed.

In sight of an event which he holds to be no "isolated affair," but one intimately connected with a category of "disputes" that are becoming "more and more serious," so serious as to demand of the Government that it "re-consider the whole Labor

problem”—in sight of that event, the Chancellor proposes to meet the issue and solve the problem with a sort of Concordat between Capital and Labor whereby, “through guarantees exacted from both sides in Labor disputes,” peace shall be enforced on each.

The Chancellor’s solution is like proposing to extinguish a conflagration by pouring a cupful of Cologne water upon it. Such a proposed solution is a denial of the premises that the dockers’ strike is but one of the myriad manifestations of the Social Question of the day. Such a proposed solution betrays post-like deafness to the rumblings of the approaching Social Revolution. Such a proposed solution is a somersault back that lands Chancellor Lloyd-George plump beside the stone-blind *Pall Mall Gazette*.

Chancellor Lloyd-George and the *Pall Mall Gazette* stand upon the intellectual low level of the fool’s paradise in which the forces that are gathering around the Wilson presidential standard are now wool-gathering in our own country.

Vastly keener is the perception of those plutocratic forces which are clear upon this, to wit, that the logic of events is driving toward a social revolution; that the program of the revolution is the one inscribed upon the banner of the Socialist Labor Party, held aloft in this campaign by Reimer and Gillhaus:—“The downfall of the Political, the rise of the Industrial Social Order”; that there is no patchwork possible between the, existing Social Order and the Social Order that is pounding at the Gates of Time; finally, and above all, that the only possible safety for the plutocracy lies in Absolutism. Vastly keener is the social-political perception of this element. Altho’ divided as to method—whether the Absolutism represented by Taft, whereby the brains of the swelling mass of wage slaves shall be benumbed by the narcotic of a Theocracy; or the Absolutism represented by Roosevelt, whereby the brains of the swelling masses of wage slaves shall be knocked out by the spikes of the Big Stick—altho’ divided as to method these forces have “the right to sow by the ear.” They know what the dockers’ strike portends. They know that, under different names, the portent is stalking over the land.

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