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EDITORIAL

## A PEEP INTO THE REICHSTAG.

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**U**NDER the title "Masters of the Situation," the Berlin *Vorwaerts* of last May 31 has this article apropos of the recent action of the Social Democratic delegation in the Reichstag in supporting a proposal to increase the Army:

"It is not open to dispute that, not in general only, but also and especially in the discussion over the Army proposition and over the appropriations, the Social Democracy in the Reichstag is the master of the situation, and that bourgeois Liberalism placed the Social Democracy in that position.'

"Thus laments Herr Oertel in today's *Deutsche Tageszeitung*, and the lamentation goes on as follows:

"It would be the extreme of folly if anyone were to indulge the illusion that the Social Democracy decided in favor of considering the Army proposition before the appropriations with the purpose in view of promoting the Army bills. Not a word need be lost upon that. But neither do we believe that the Social Democracy made upon the subject common cause with the Liberals merely for the sake of angering the Conservatives and the Centrum. Vote-catching politics is not the practice of Messieurs Comrades. They are too robust politicians for that. It can not be denied to the Social Democracy that it knows what it wants, and that also in tactical issues it never makes a move that is not subservient to its aims. The Social Democracy knows exactly that day before yesterday's decision of the Budget Committee has not promoted, but renders more difficult, the enactment of the Army bills. For that reason the Social Democracy postponed its opposition to the Army bills, and at the same time provided that their second reading be immediately taken up.'

"And then follows the admission that the Conservatives are no longer able to uphold their opposition to all taxes upon property. Already had Herr Oertel stated to the coalition, Rather no strengthening of the Army than the triple-damned inheritance tax. And now the inheritance tax threatens to become a reality! Whereupon the Conservatives grow hot under the collar. True enough, Herr Oertel makes the assurance that even now the Con-

servatives are opposed to all real Imperial tax upon property. But he begins to have glimmerings of the fact that the will of the Conservatives will cease to become law. Accordingly, he cautions the Government not to rely upon the property tax being rejected. 'Should such manoeuvres leave nothing to be done but the extension of the inheritance tax, then the Social Democracy will remain mistress of the situation,' thus closes the elegy of Herr Oertel. How must not the Conservatives be sweating blood if they are inclined to give up their opposition to this 'surrender of the pocket-books'! How are they driven into a corner when they can hope for no way other to escape the inheritance tax!

"The long and short of the story is that the Government now faces the fact that there is no longer in the Reichstag any party that opposes the property tax. The Government will have to adjust itself to that fact. The opportunity is thereby opened to the liberal parties to do thorough-going work by the introduction of property AND inheritance tax bills."

In a previous article, "A Peep into the Douma," the virtues and the vices, the advantages and the shortcomings, of parliamentary battles, in so far as Revolution is concerned, were illustrated. A peep into the Reichstag—a parliamentary field vastly more advanced than the Russian Douma—gives further insight into the virtues and vices, the advantages and shortcomings aforementioned. The insight emphasizes the golden opportunities of the political field of action for revolutionary propaganda, and amply hints at the requirement of outside organization for the revolutionary act.

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