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EDITORIAL

TOPSY TURVY LA FOLLETTE.

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IN the course of the speech, delivered by Senator La Follette in Congress on the 2nd of this month, and in which he argued forcibly in favor of his amendment to the effect that stock-holders of railroads must not be allowed to hold coal mines, and that unless they are barred from holding such property railroad companies will own and control the mines, and hold the people in subjection, the Senator exclaimed:

“It may be said here, Mr. President, as it was said in the Committee, when I offered the amendment, that if the railroad companies want these coal lands they will get them. But I desire to record my protest against the doctrine. . . . I believe that this Government, however it may have appeared in recent years to the contrary, is stronger than any of its creations; that this Government is stronger than all the railroads of this country in aggregation.”

It is **FACTS** not **APPEARANCES** that constitute the footing of the Senators who said that “if the railroads want the coal lands they can get them”, no law being imaginable to prevent them. La Follette’s protest is a protest against the moon: his reasoning topsy turvy.

There never was, and there is not in existence to-day, any political Government that is not the creature of the owners of the necessities of life, or of the things necessary to produce the necessities of life. There is not to-day and never was a political Government that is or was the creator of these necessities. As far as “appearances” go they seem, to the superficial observer, to point to the opposite theory. The facts prove that political Government, not the capitalist concerns, is the creature. Look to the drama now enacting in Colorado-Idaho. Who is creator, who creature? Is the Government of the two States running the Mine Owners’ Ass’n., or is it not rather the Mine Owners’ Ass’n. that is running the Government? Who is it that is running the Pinkertons? Who is manipulating the “witnesses”? Who the Governors? Who the Sheriffs? Surely not the Government. The Government is as

much the creator of the Mine Owners' Ass'n. as the axe is the creator of its owner. As completely as the axe is the creature of its master the Idaho-Colorado Government is the creature of the Mine Owners' Ass'n. The creature can not rise against its master; it is impotent; like a balky horse it may, at times, give trouble, but reins and spurs soon bring him back to subjection. Exactly so with the political Government of the Capitalist Class. The La Follettes, who may be visionary enough sincerely to believe the opposite, have nothing but disappointment in perspective.

And much hangs by the fact that the ostensible Government of capitalist society is not what it seems, master, but the obedient creature of the Capitalist Class. Government proper, that organ or those organs, that society requires to administer its productive powers, neither stands nor stand in need of political Government, except in a social system where an exploited and oppressed class and an exploiting and oppressing class exist. Where the classes exist there the industrial organ is bound to set forth the political organ, and this organ can be naught but the pliant agency of the industrial organ. Consequently and therefore, the Labor or Socialist Movement, under whose social system there can be no classes, has no further use for political Government. Having no further use for political Government, the Labor or Socialist Movement will never look to the political Government as a means to an end; it will be free from the lure that the Capitalist Class holds out, and that is intended to lead the Movement into the quagmire of parliamentarism; it will be free from the disappointments that attend the Syssiphus {Sisyphus?} labors of the La Follette reformer; finally it will strive to seize that political Government for the sole and express purpose of abolishing it.

The Labor or Socialist Movement seeks to end the existing social ills by organizing the administrative Government that shall enable society to cast off the political Government, instead of seeking to end the existing social ills by leaving the cause untouched, and tinkering at the reflex of the cause—political Government. The Socialist or Labor Movement stands upon its feet, not upon its head as do the La Follettes or their kin, the pure and simple political Socialists.

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