

EDITORIAL

THE SHADOW OF RUSSIA SPREADING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AS was anticipated by all who were acquainted with ways that are Russian, the extradition treaty of fifteen years ago is beginning to work in ways that render the United States an outlying province of the Muscovite's realm.

The case of Pouren is well known to readers of *The People*. Political offenders are not extradictable. The extradition of the political offender Pouren was demanded by the Russian Government on the false pretense that the offences complained against were common felonies. Pouren was to be spirited away. The conspiracy suffered shipwreck by the merest accident. A trial was forced and revealed the fraudulency of the Russian claims. As far as Pouren is concerned, his extradition is no longer a likely thing. But the trouble is not ended. It only begins.

What Russia failed to accomplish in one way she now seeks to accomplish in another. Pouren's safety was the result of the efforts—sacrifice of time and money—by private individuals. There is a limit to such sacrifice. Russia now seeks to cause the limit to be reached promptly. Two more arrests of the fishiest have been made of two other Russian refugees. More such arrests are expected. The failure that accompanied the Russian intrigue against one Pouren is expected to be escaped by arresting many Pourems.

The manoeuvre of the Russian Government leaves but one counter-move available—the abrogation of the existing extradition treaty with Russia.

And it is time. To cancel that treaty is the least that the dignity of the country demands. Indeed, the dignity of the country demands more. It demands the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Russia.

Russia is the only country on the face of the earth that has attempted and is enforcing upon this country the affront of discriminating against our people. Russia

presumes to establish a difference between our citizens that neither the Constitution nor laws of the land warrant, and that is repugnant to both. Russia arrogates to herself the power to honor the passports carried by some, and to dishonor the passports carried by others—by Jews. Such an indignity this country has borne in jeopardy of its sovereignty. Encouraged by our meekness, the Muscovite is now taking the steps that are logical sequences of an Administrative attitude in Washington that amounts to poltroonery—the Moscovite Government is now not only reaching its hand across our frontiers and picking out for punishment the men and women who rebelled against its Reign of Terror and failed in the noble endeavor, but it is rendering our Courts subservient to its will, and is breaking through our laws and customs as if these were so many cobwebs, as if the Atlantic Ocean were but the Ural Mountains, and the United States a vestibule to the prison-pen of Siberia.

The extradition treaty with Russia must be abrogated—aye, and diplomatic relations should be broken off with the insulter of the Nation's dignity.

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