

EDITORIAL

## THE SPECTRE OF ANTI-MILITARISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**WO untruths, both serious, but each of different type, were embodied in the statement made by Lloyd-George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at this year's Lord Mayor's annual banquet.

Mr. Lloyd-George said the "common sense of nations of late years generally intervened to secure a peaceable solution of international difficulties."

For one thing, there have been no "peaceable solutions." What has been is a hushing up, or postponement of settlement, in the hope that a certain atmosphere might clear up and remove the apprehensions, due to which the postponement was resorted to. For another thing, it is not "common sense" that caused the postponement: it was dictated by just Fear.

Of all names in Europe, at the present time and for the last decade, that the European Ruling Class—whether feudal, capitalist, or feudo-capitalist—stand in dread of it is the name of Gustave Herve. Herve's unterrified, systematic, often spectacular, but always effectively striking, anti-militarist agitation has sent a chill down the spine of Rulerdom.

For Socialism the rulers of Europe have, sure enough, no love. They even have a well shaped antipathy for the thing. Yet, not for a moment do they, any more than their cousins in America, expect to see Socialism triumph. No Ruling Class ever supposes itself terminable. Their antipathy for Socialism is merely a matter of unconscious consciousness. It is otherwise with regard to Anti-Militarism.

Anti-Militarism is no social system. Its progress is not, like a social revolutionary movement, held back by roots rooted in past institutions. It is easily understandable; it appeals to interests, that need not, like class sentiment, be first cultivated. Herve's bugle-call to soldiers that, at the command to give battle, they, each set in its own camp, turn upon their commanders, has a ring that is peculiarly con-

vincing. While Socialism may be an ultimate and remote danger, Anti-Militarism is a palpitating danger. There is no European military chief, outside of Russia and possibly England, with whom the dread of Anti-Militarism is not ever present, and an ever unnerving fear.

'Tis not "common sense," surely not the common sense of Rulerdom that is causing the postponement of clashes of arms. What does the trick is the fear entertained by Rulerdom that the proletarian military atoms may be seized with common sense enough to follow Herve's suggestion.

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