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EDITORIAL

COMMERCIALIZING THE FLAG.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ONE of the committees of the House of Representatives bears the name of Committee on Foreign Relations. Before this Committee delegations in large numbers have been recently appearing. The “motion before the house,” so to speak, is the abrogation of the existing treaty with Russia unless Russia ceases to discriminate between American citizens carrying passports. But does the motion involve all that is at issue?

There can be no doubt of the singleness of purpose that animates most of the delegations. As Jews they have a personal cause. As American citizens they have a civic cause. Whether as Jews, or as citizens, especially as Jewish American citizens, their cause is supremely just, and is the cause of us all.

The attitude of the Russian Government to citizens of Jewish race is an indignity inflicted by Russia upon America. It is an indignity of long standing. No self-respecting Nation will brook such treatment. When, moreover, the humiliation, besides being an international tarnish upon our Flag, is in the interest of barbarism, revolt against the same is double-barreled. The Russian posture amounts to the establishment, among our population, of the barbaric Pale which is institutional among the population of Russia. In the last analysis, it is an attempt at semi-annexation, semi-subjugation, semi-vassalage.

The point can be made none too strong. In the very circumstance that exaggeration is impossible lies the justification of the question, Does the “motion before (the) house” involve no issue other than that which it expresses? This question leads to another, How does it happen that the Government of a Nation so powerful as the United States has so long tolerated, and still tolerates such an affront? The latter question leads direct to the answer called for by the first.

Addressing on the 6th of the current month the mass meeting held in this city

on the subject of our existing relations with Russia, Gov. Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey scored, among others, this point:

“If the Russian Government has felt through all these years that it could ignore the protest of American Ministers and Secretaries of State *it has been because the American Government spoke for special interests from some point of view and not for the American people.*”

And so it was,—and much hangs thereby to-day.

The existing treaty regulations with Russia were brought about by the Standard Oil and the McCormick Harvester Trusts. True bourgeois, they know no Flag but the international one bearing the \$ emblem. To them all other flags are just so much calico and bunting—objects of trade and barter. As they had power enough to bring about, so had they the power to continue the existing treaty regulations that subject the American Nation to Russian vassalage.

Maybe the harsh pinch Top Capitalism is just now in may loosen its grip enough to compel the Russian Government to yield. May be not. At any rate, it is the fate of these and other American Interests, which have since penetrated Russia, that is actually trembling in the scales—it is their fate that is actually being considered, not the Nation’s dignity involved in the treatment by Russia of our Jewish fellow citizens—the consideration of the fate of these interests is now going on, not before the House Committee of Foreign Relations—the hearings before that Committee were held as blinds—the consideration of the fate of our Top Capitalist Interests in Russia is going on in secret, in back parlors, with the American Flag as an article of commerce.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org