

EDITORIAL

THE MISSION OF JUDGE WRIGHT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

NOT indignation, not condemnation, not reproach should be expressed with regard to Judge Wright's action in sentencing Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison to jail for the doing of acts that no law forbade, and that were entered upon the list of crimes only after their commission and by the legislative action of the court itself.

No; not indignation; not condemnation; not reproach—but applause should greet the deed.

Deeds such as Judge Wright's are great historic landmarks. They are meant to promote reaction: they are, in fact, the powerful stimuli for revolution.

Without the stimulus given by a Louis XIV., the French nation might have stagnated to this day in the swamp of a Mazarin's apathy. The French Revolution, together with the impulse forward that it imparted to all Europe might never have been.

Without a Charles I., who knows how long the British nation might not have plodded along, quiescent in the benumbing toils of feudalism? The English revolutionary broom might not have been wielded to sweep the worst cobwebs of feudalism aside.

Without a stupid, impudent George III., is it certain that the mammoth bourgeois Republic of America would have arisen?

The mission of Judge Wright's is a valuable one in the scheme of social progress. Such men are goaders, without which society, Hamlet-like, would waver aimlessly, and thus allow enterprises of great pith and moment to have their currents turned awry, and lose the name of action.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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slpns@slp.org