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EDITORIAL

A PEEP INTO ENGLAND.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ONE after another, as our tourist statesmen to Europe are coming back home this Fall, they utter themselves alarmedly about what's going on in England. Some go so far as to speak of "convulsion," "revolution," "wonderful changes"—and all apropos of the budget proposed by Lloyd-George. The homing tourists predict "a conflict between the House and the Lords," with the consequence of the abolition of the latter and with further consequences as a consequence of that.

Under such circumstances, backed by the mixed up despatches from Europe, two utterances, each from exactly opposite camps, and yet strangely agreeing, may help to give a peep into what is really up, and what is to be expected.

First, the *London Times*, ultra conservative or reactionist, commenting upon the desires of the present "radical" administration to see the Finance Bill rejected by the Lords, says:

"There are occasions in politics, as there are occasions in war, when their is no course open but to engage the enemy at whatever odds. . . . But occasions of the kind are rare, and it is the business of skillful and experienced leaders to avoid them, where to avoid them is possible. Judgment in so choosing their ground that they cannot be compelled to fight at a disadvantage ranks high amongst the gifts which qualify them to lead. There is nothing shameful in falling back for the moment before superior forces, in order to join battle with them in less unfavorable conditions later on."

The other utterance comes from the camp of the Social Democratic Federation. In the *London Justice* Hyndman has an article "The Two Georges," in which he parallels George with his single-tax, and Lloyd-George with his budget, and closes with these words:

“Lord Rothschild, Lord Avebury, and the rest of the bankers and money-mongers who foregathered in the City the other day, have been shrewd enough to see that what is George’s sauce for the landlord goose to-day would speedily develop into Lloyd’s condiment for the capitalist gander to-morrow. And this view of the situation, we venture to predict, will spread into regions which will cause our worthy Chancellor of the Exchequer very considerable uneasiness.”

From all of which it would appear that a “conflict,” “convulsion,” “clash,” or even “revolution” is, indeed, approaching, yet it is not likely to be immediate. The two bolts are just now broadly taking shape and gathering their electric batteries.

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