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EDITORIAL

EUROPE IS SLOW.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MARCEL Mielvague, described as a cool-headed bourgeois, has a bird's-eye review of recent political events in France, published in the *Renaissance Latine*. This passage occurs in the article:

“A Socialist, who consents to administer the fortunes of a bourgeois State, is no longer a danger to such a State. He may force it to consent to some reforms, the most indispensable and pressing. He thereby pacifies the opinion that elected him; weakens the anger and force of the demands of the masses. Accordingly, it is profitable to confiscate, for the benefit of society, the most intelligent and ardent leaders of the opposition. To call them to power is a sort of honorable way of placating them.”

Thus writes the Frenchman, with Millerand and his followers in mind. The size-up is clever. There is even an air of the philosophy of state craft about it. Nevertheless, brilliant tho' the passage is, it betrays imperfect information. Mr. Mielvague evidently knows nothing about what is broadly called the “Socialist Movement” in America. If he did, he could have greatly amplified his article, and shown how, not in industrial development only, but in state craft also the American bourgeois is clean ahead of his French cousin. The French bourgeois, according to Mr. Mielvague, undertakes, not a complete but a semi-confiscation of Socialist leaders. He feels constrained to make to the opposition certain “indispensable and pressing” concessions. The American bourgeois doesn't do as much. He confiscates his man outright. The elevation of the “leader” to power is all the concession the bourgeois makes. The “elevated” leader (read politically corrupted) then does the full bidding of his bourgeois elevator. The Social Democrat, James Carey of Haverhill is the American illustration of the point. Called to power as the President of the Board of Councilmen by the votes of bourgeois Councilmen, he voted for an Armory appropriation, and thus prepared to “placate,”

“pacify” and to “weaken” the anger and the force of the demands of the masses.

Europe is slow.

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