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EDITORIAL

## HEARST FULFILLING HIS MISSION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ELIEVERS in the theory that the ballot, without the physical force to back it up, can overthrow the capitalist system have been wise men in one respect. They did not shout: "Now, what do you say to that!" when Hearst, the duly elected and counted out Mayor of New York, obtained an Act of the Legislature ordering a recount. That Act is now several months old. It is not yet enforced. One obstacle after another has been thrown in its path. The latest is a move to suspend the enforcement of the Act "until it has been pronounced constitutional." The bare thought of suspending an Act that is in the interest of capitalist society until the Act be "pronounced constitutional" is so droll as to illumine the move in the present instance. In the meantime Comptroller Metz is preparing figures to show that the enforcement of the Act would cost "the taxpayers" \$180,000 in stenographer's fees alone, and he is preparing papers to prove that the \$180,000 would come direct out of the pockets of the Working Class.

Let credit be given where credit is due. The absence of the shout of joy from the camp of the pure and simple political Socialists is evidence that these gentry are not visionary, at least not as visionary as their tenets would lead one to believe. True enough, in the measure that they are freed from the charge of visionariness the charge of corrupt purposes grows heavier. But a corrupt visionary is a worse case than a visionary who is not corrupt, or a corruptionist who is not visionary.

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