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EDITORIAL

OPPORTUNISM IN SPAIN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE speech of Pablo Iglesias, the leader of the Socialist Movement in Spain, published elsewhere in this issue¹ is of primary interest to Spain; obversely, of interest to America also.

El Socialista of November 12 which publishes the speech as part of the report of the monster meeting, held in Madrid on the preceding Sunday and at which a union was effected between the Socialist and the generally republican forces of the land, is headed with the cross-page headline "The Democracy Under March."

The headline sums up the issue.

There are two rocks that the Socialist Movement must guard against—the rock of Dogmatism and the rock of Romanticism.

Socialist science teaches that the bourgeois revolution must precede the Socialist; Socialist science also teaches that Socialism must accomplish its own revolution single-handed against the bourgeois regime. But Socialism, being a science, is planted also upon the general science of practice. Ignorant of what the third of these principles imports, the dogmatist would insist upon a complete divorcement of the Socialist forces from all others, everywhere and under all circumstances; equally ignorant of the import of the third principle, the romanticist would fly off the handle, fuse, log-roll, and indulge in practices foreign to Socialism proper, and he also will do so everywhere and under all circumstances.

Spanish Socialism proves itself no dogmatist in the present, and its language is an earnest that it will be no romanticist in the future.

The clerical alliance of the monarchy of Spain is an evidence that the monarchy partakes of essential features of feudalism. It is an evidence that the bourgeois revolution of Spain is left substantially unaccomplished. Connecting this fact with

¹ [To be appended.—R.B.]

the further fact that large forces of the land are republican, tho' far from Socialist, and that neither force alone can overthrow the monarchy, consequently, considering that a divorce of the Socialist forces of Spain from the bourgeois republican would be likely to keep the feudal, clerico-monarchy on its feet, the Spanish Socialists have done the right thing—unite the forces that can finish up feudalism.

The conduct of the Spanish Socialist Movement, in raising itself above the trammels of Dogmatism is, by parity of reason, an emphatic condemnation of that spirit of Romanticism which, here in America, where the bourgeois revolution has left the ground clear of feudal encumbrances for the Socialist Movement, obsesses so many unballasted Socialists, and causes their efforts to evaporate.

Opportunism where it is sane, as now in Spain, is the exact opposite of Romanticism. It simultaneously exhibits, by contrast, both the petrification that lies in Romanticism, and the flightiness that lies in Romanticism—the barrenness of both.

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