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EDITORIAL

McCOMAS CARRIES OFF THE PALM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

PRESIDENT Roosevelt set the pace in his message to Congress, and the Senators and Representatives in Congress are tumbling over one another with propositions to “stem Anarchy,” and to “stamp out Anarchy.” It is difficult to decide which of the numerous propositions should be awarded the palm for idiocy. After a careful consideration of the claims of the contestants, it must be admitted that for heels-over-headedness, for depth of stupidity, and for height of flightiness the proposition of the Maryland Republican Senator McComas ranks foremost. It is nothing short of a proposition to have the Federal Government amend the by-laws of Anarchist groups in America. This sounds incredible: yet truth in this, as in so many other instances, is more wondrous than fiction. After passing in review the numerous assassinations of rulers recently committed in Europe, Senator McComas concludes:

“The naturalization laws must be so amended as to make ten years’ residence in the United States and ability to read and write the English language requisite to the admission of an alien to citizenship.”

In view of the fact that the subject which the Senator was pursuing was, not the raising of intelligence back of the ballot; in view of the fact that the subject he was pursuing was how to check assassinations; in view of the further fact that Anarchists notoriously deride the ballot, together with all political demarcations, and give not a fig for citizenship;—in view of all this, the only interpretation that the Senator’s proposition is open to is that henceforth the homicidal arm of Anarchists shall be held in check by a statute that provides they shall be ten years in the country and as much longer as may be necessary for them to acquire ability to read and write the English language, before they shall graduate in their peculiar profession and start on their “mission.” If this is not an attempt to amend the by-

laws of Anarchist groups in America, what is it? It is none other. And as the proposition has been soberly presented in Congress, it must be soberly considered outside.

Senator McComas' plan is as full of holes as a sieve:

Hole 1—What guarantee will “the President or Vice-President of the United States, or both, and the officers upon whom the power and duties of the office of President of the United States devolve” have that the Anarchist groups will accept the amendment proposed to their by-laws?

Hole 2—In what way would the said proposed amendment, even if accepted, protect or extend the ten-year shield over “the President or Vice-President, or both, and the officers upon whom the power and duties of the office of President of the United States devolve” as against the Booths, the Guiteaus, the Prendergasts, the Norcrosses, and the Czolgoszes,—all of whom were born in the country and had ample ability to read and write the English language?

Senator Louis Everlastingly-silly McComas walks off with the palm.

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