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EDITORIAL

MASS APATHY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SOME Democratic leaders are raising a great clatter, and expressing great hopes, over what they call the “great unrest” among the up-State Democrats, and their “dissatisfaction with the present party management.”

There is no unrest, or dissatisfaction, among the Democrats, or among the Republicans, either. There is nothing stirring.

A feature that typifies the country to-day is the political apathy of the masses. Nothing throws them into “unrest,” nothing “dissatisfies” them. The powers that be may rage and thunder among themselves. The masses look on, if at all they take any notice of the clatter, with the indifference that comes from a sense of helplessness. The prominent high tariff Republican Senator, who, when asked whether he did not fear for his party seeing it had raised the duties on the necessities of life, answered: “Not at all, if there is a tight finish for the baseball championship the people will forget all about the tariff,”—that gentleman portrayed the situation to perfection. The country at large is politically asleep.

And there is a reason—

From press, pulpit and political platform there flows in a steady stream so banal a flood of “information” concerning the ills that the people suffer from, that the “information” confuses, as it is meant to do. Add to that the hamstringing effect of Gompers-Mitchellism, and the disheartening influence of St. Johnic performances, and the consequences are what one sees.

The unseen lashes, that crack the mind of our people, have the identical effect of the physical lashes that crack the skin of the Russian masses. Leslie M. Shaw, ex-Treasurer of the United States, stated in Washington, within a month ago: “This country has now the most centralized government in the world, not excepting Russia.” Thus the process works upwards, and downwards.

But the darkest hour precedes the dawn. Signs there are in plenty that the dawn will not need to struggle hard before it bursts through the heavy clouds that now are settled over the land.

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Uploaded by Donna Bills, October 2010

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