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EDITORIAL

“BLUE-AND-BLACK.”

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THE third re-ballotings for the German Reichstag have made plain that things German are ripening at a faster rate than the returns of the first electionary bout seemed to indicate.

The circumstance that at the first electionary bout only one of the bourgeois radical candidates was returned elected prompted the conclusion that the revolutionary forces of Socialism were devouring the parties of compromise, but hardly made, as yet, any impression upon the parties of conservatism—the imperial top-capitalists and the Centrum, the Roman Catholic political party. The returns of the first electionary bout prompted the conclusion that the course of events in Germany was the rapid disintegration of the compromise elements in the land, the same being absorbed by the two extreme types—the arch conservatives or reactionists, called the “Blue [aristocrats] and Black” [clericals], on the one side, and the Social Democrats, on the other, the two extremes, “Blue and Black” and Socialists being left over in gigantic force to fight it out to a finish. The third and last re-ballotings place matters in a somewhat different and more reassuring light.

Though the radical bourgeois parties come out seriously crippled, with a reduced number of mandates, the “Blue and Black” emerge from the contest in style and manner that is everything but evidence of “holding their own.” They also have suffered losses of mandates; and the losses are underscored by the capture, by the Social Democrats, of Potsdam, the Kaiser’s residential city, from the “Blue,” and the capture, also by the Social Democrats, of Cologne, the “Centrist Throne,” from the “Black.”

While the final issue would remain the same, even if the “Blue and Black” had gained in strength at the same time that the Social Democrats did likewise, the impending conflict, as now forecast, between a gigantic Social Democracy and a crip-

pled “Blue and Black” is more encouraging to contemplate.

It is encouraging to perceive that, despite centuries of habits of misdirected thought, the tooth of Enlightenment is eating, not only into those layers of German society that have not been affected by feudal patriotism and bigotry, but is also gnawing with striking effectiveness into the social layers that feudal bigotry and patriotism had wrought upon. The X-Ray is said to have healing qualities; the rays of Socialism, the elections in Germany attest to the fact, are gifted with mental disinfectant power.

The “Blue” and “Black” are leaning each upon the other, the world over. That they are two falling Pillars Potsdam and Cologne trumpet to the world.

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