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EDITORIAL

SAVVA FEDORENKO.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE news from Canada that the application of the Russian Government for the extradition of the political refugee Savva Fedorenko has been granted by the Court comes like a shock upon the conscience of the people of the United States. The information that accompanies the news that Fedorenko's counsel have not yet exhausted all the resources that are available, and are immediately to institute habeas corpus proceedings, comes as a partial relief from which Hope re-rises.

The Hope that re-rises is not in behalf of Fedorenko alone. While he is the immediate human being at stake, there is a broader issue upon which the recurring efforts of the Czar to violate the Right of Asylum are nothing short of felonious assaults, and upon which the submission of the Canadian court is but a plain case of complicity in the attempted felony—felony upon a human Right, a Right recognized everywhere, a Right, moreover, never before violated on American soil, North, South or Central.

Only last week, Woodrow Wilson, the brilliant and cultured Democratic candidate for Governor in New Jersey whose campaign is storming that State, fired a mammoth audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm when, closing a discourse upon the infamies of political betrayal in office, he held up the mission of America in these words:

“For America, ladies and gentlemen, is not merely a piece of the surface of the earth. America is not merely a body of towns; America is an idea; America is an ideal; America is a vision. I have heard foreigners laugh at us for boasting of the size of America, and I have very naturally heard them say: ‘You did not make that continent and, therefore, you have no reason to be proud of its size.’ I reply: ‘We have reason to be proud of its size, because a man is as big as the thing that he conquers and masters, and we conquered and mastered that continent. We made it ourselves, and

we showed the greatness of our nature by making it arise in unselfish form, by taking possession of it for mankind as well as for ourselves.’ That is the vision of America—America for the leadership of the world. America for the purification of the world, America for the example of the world.”

Is the decision of the Canadian court to be the interpretation of these words? Is it to annex America to the Czar’s slaughter yard that “we have mastered this continent”? Are the Czar’s butchers the “mankind” for whom “we have taken possession” of this wide territory? Is America’s “leadership of the world” to be a leadership down and back to the raw boned barbarism of the Moscovite? Is America’s “purification of the world” to be the immolation of the noblest hearts of Russia upon a Cossacks altar? Is America’s “example of the world” to be meek obedience to tyranny?

In breathless silence the thinking people of this country and of the whole continent await the answer to these questions from the higher and final tribunals in Canada.

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