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EDITORIAL

THE RUSSIAN TREATY.

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THE House Committee on Foreign Affairs has held hearings; Representative Sulzer has drawn up a Joint Resolution; the House passed it; the Senate adopted after amending the Resolution; and the President has “announced” the termination of the treaty of 1832 to the Russian Government

The termination of treaties has been “announced” before this without the affair creating any but a local ripple. The same thing can not be said of the termination of the treaty of 1832. Politicians of all shades and degrees, from the President down, aware that within six months they will be in the vortex of the most heated political campaign the country has gone through since the first election of Lincoln, have done their best to lash the waters and produce the, to them, desirable popular waves and foamy billows. In this instance there is more than a ripple, covering a larger than local area.

Does the issue justify the noise? The issue, or, rather, what thereby hangs, justifies more than the noise. So much more that the noise should not be allowed, as there is danger that it may, to becloud the issue, that is, the real international issue.

The Greek republics, together with their civilization, were overthrown by the black cloud of Macedonia to the north. The Russian Bear has long, and justly so, been looked upon as the threatening Macedonian cloud to the civilization of central and western Europe. The cannon of Japan in Manchuria to the east recently lessened the danger, somewhat; it did not remove the danger; it could not; European geography prevents that. Obedient to the inscrutable law of social logic the Russian Bear itself took a hand in the changing of strategic geography, changing the same against itself. Its barbarian paw drove to our shores, by the hundreds of thousands, an element that combined the three qualities of being the Russian Bear’s worst vic-

tim, of being its most revolutionary element, and of being the least capable to upset the heavy brute at home. That element was the Jew.

The law bothers not about trifles. In all probability Russia could have continued indefinitely to dishonor American passports carried by Jews. So long as these were sporadic instances, few and far between owing to the smallness of the number of Jews in America, it is not likely that the machinery of the Government would be set in motion to redress the wrong. This changed wholly with the mass-migration of the Russian Jew into our land. The victim forgot not his victimizer; the revolutionary pulse forgot not its cunning; and the opportunity, denied him by Russia conditions, here widened to his use. The consequence is the present “announcement” of the termination of the treaty of 1832, at which the Bear’s official press is now howling with rage.

It matters not that the treaty’s termination is “announced” for a year from now, instead of being abrogated, short off, as a violated treaty deserves to be; it matters not that the language was diplomatically smoothed, and scraped, and polished; in short, it matters not how thick and soft the velvet padding of the club that smote the Bear’s head;—all that matters not. The fact, the important fact, the unique fact is that within that velvet wrappage was a club, the first of social significance that was ever swung over and fell upon the Bear’s skull, and that the club was wielded from America’s shore.

Some of the greatest discoveries mankind stumbled against by “accident.” Such an “accident” and such a discovery is the one that America is the strategic spot from which the Russian Bear is to be driven from his lair. The “announcement” of the termination of the Russian treaty of 1832 amounts to a rearrangement of the world’s map on which the Social Revolution of our Age is now skirmishing, and on which it is to deliver final battle.

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