

EDITORIAL

THE THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

CLASS-BLINDNESS, the blindness of a Ruling Class, receives an amazing confirmation in the Thanksgiving Proclamation just issued by President Taft.

The people are there stated to be “rich in harvests so abundant and in industries so productive that the overflow of our prosperity has advantaged the whole world.”

From some capitalist President, who, just before issuing the annual Thanksgiving Proclamation, had been returned re-elected with a whoop, the feeling of self-complacency might be expected. With such a Presidential Thanksgiving proclama-tor the eyes would be pardonably closed to the circumstance that the abundance of “our” harvests spells no abundance to the majority of our people; that the productiv-ity of “our” industries is productive of larger wealth to a small minority of million-aires only; that there is no overflow of prosperity except to the Ruling Class whom he represents. Blindness to all that might be excusable in the instance of a Presi-dent proclama-tor whose heart was overflowing with joy at a recent political triumph that insured him four more years of personal supremacy, his class’s top-notch.

But how about Taft?

No Presidential candidate of either of the dominant parties ever received such a resounding slap on both his cheeks as the present President. Least of all has ever a second-term candidate been so thoroughly thrashed. From a man in such a position one would expect a certain degree of “chastened” class impudence. The man need not be enlightened enough to have grasped the lesson of the election returns. He might have remained as deaf as a post to the thunder cry of Discontent. Neverthe-less, class-deaf tho’ he might be; class-blind tho’ he might be, one would think that there would be enough of the human in Taft to have chastened his pen, causing it to

dance less hilariously, less flippantly, less insolently, less insultingly to workers, on the subjects of the abundance and prosperity of the people, when the only “people” he can possibly have in mind is the class he represents, the labor-plundering private capitalist class.

But Ruling-Classness excludes the human. How completely so, Taft’s Thanksgiving Proclamation—the Proclamation written by a Taft, whom Nation-wide Discontent just kicked out of office, and scornfully so, will serve to illustrate for all time.

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