

EDITORIAL

AGAIN, WELL FOR HERVE!

By DANIEL DE LEON

GUSTAVE HERVE, whose words Anarchy misconstrued, and whom Anarchy then claimed for itself, gives his would-be kidnappers another drubbing in the April 15th issue of *La Guerre Sociale*.

The conquest of the XIIth and the XIIIth Wards of Paris by the united Socialist Party candidates is the occasion for Herve's article.

Herve first referred to the circumstance that at the just preceding elections the two respective polls were so doubtful that a new election was ordered, whereas at the present election the two polls spoke a language not to be misunderstood. The National-Radical candidates, who at the previous election were confusingly nip-and-tuck with their Socialist opponents, now lay snowed under a round majority of 1,000 each.

What had done the trick? Between the two elections, the Government had brought in the bill to make elections triennial, and thereby to render the Government less responsive to the popular will. The overturn in the XIIth and XIIIth Wards is a foretaste of how the electorate feels towards the Three Years Bill, and is a warning to the legislative candidates in 1914.

Upon these facts Herve comments with characteristic pithiness:

“Fear for the electorate is, with the elected, the beginning of wisdom. If the Three Years Bill is defeated, its defeat will be due solely to fear for the electorate. Evidently this fact is as uncomfortable to the old moss-back theory that the ballot has no importance whatever, as the fact of the rotation of the earth was uncomfortable to the theories of the theologians who picked up a quarrel with Galileo.

“The commentary on the ballot, furnished by the election figures, is surely incommoding to our theologians of the XXth Century.”

To call Anarchists “theologians,” and to prove them to share with theologians the typically theological feature of ignoring, and of being incommoded by, facts is an admirable, and truly Hervean bit of caustic satire.

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