

Daniel De Leon

Editorial: Casimir Perier's Downfall

Last Tuesday the Socialists in the French Chamber of Deputies overthrew the second ministry that was constituted since last November. When the now defunct ministry of CASIMIR PERIER stepped into the place from which the Socialists had just hurled its DUPUY predecessor, the announcement was made that now a strong hand was at the helm, and now at last Socialism would be squelched. The instincts of the capitalist class the world round told this class that CASIMIR PERIER was its champion, that the battle he had entered upon was their battle, that his victory would be theirs, and his defeat theirs too.

Soon it began to be evident that, indeed, capitalism was about to make a frantic stand in France against Socialism. Bombs began to burst everywhere; the half-witted fellows, who, as it subsequently appeared, had been incited by leading financiers and capitalists to indulge in Anarchistic insanity, were by the capitalists of the world sought to be identified with the Socialists; the misguided Anarchists were ceremoniously tried and executed, and it was thought the policy of false pretences had succeeded, and the working class of France had been frightened into submission.

But the axe of the guillotine had barely cut off the head of the first of these deluded Anarchists when the returns of by-elections north, east, south and west came in and threw dismay into the hearts of the capitalists. The Socialist vote did not go

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down, on the contrary, it was enormously increased and in Marseilles it even resulted in the election of an additional Socialist deputy.

All this while, the brave Socialist contingent in the Chamber kept firing hot shot into the capitalist camp, undeterred by the dynamite detonations which the capitalists themselves were paying for and getting up. These combined assaults—telling blows from the Socialists in the Chamber and swelling Socialist votes at the hustings—soon had their effect upon CHAMPION SOCIALIST KILLER CASIMIR PERIER. With the stupidity that is characteristic of the capitalist, he had imagined he could arrest a revolution; he struck the buzz-saw; and he began to declare that he was “tired of office.”

PERIER’S downfall was an established fact two months ago. Last Tuesday only officially recorded the fact and made it public.

As the defeated ministry that was to put an end to Socialism filed out of the Chamber by the Socialist deputies, their ears were assailed by loud shouts of
“Long live the Social Republic!
“Long live the Commune!

The crash of CASIMIR PERIER’S downfall has thrown lead into the hearts of all the exploiters and labor fleecers of the world, and has filled with joy the hearts of the revolutionary forces the world round that are gathering everywhere to give the perverse system of wage slavery its death blow.

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*A De Leon editorial transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the
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