

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 234.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1911.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

BUSINESS GOVERNMENT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THERE are two serious subjects of controversy between this country and Russia. At least the average and unsophisticated wayfarer would be inclined to consider them both serious.

One is the assumption of the Russian Government to discriminate between our American citizens in the manner of passports—honoring the passports of some, refusing to honor the passports of others;

The other is the assumption of the Russian Government to extend its fisheries jurisdiction to twelve miles from its own shores, that is to nearly three times the distance over which any country can by international law exercise de facto power.

In a way the two issues spring from a common point—the assumption on the part of the Russian Government to exercise jurisdiction beyond a legitimate radius.

And how does the United States Government demean itself in sight of this double trespass upon its own sovereignty? The metropolitan bourgeois press of the 17th of this month answers the question in a way that may be termed pictorial:

They all publish on that day a despatch from London to the effect that St. Petersburg despatches announce that W.W. Rockhill, the American Ambassador in Russia, has communicated to the Russian Government representations against the twelve-mile limit clause in the White Sea Fishery bill.

The same papers publish, often on the same page, Washington despatches to the effect that motions are being made on the House Committee for Foreign Relations recommending the severance of diplomatic relations between this country and Russia if the latter persist in her attitude of discriminating between our citizens.

In other words:—

In a matter that threatens a few dollars and cents to the specific fishing

interests, the Ambassador of the United States is put into immediate motion making proper presentations to the Russian Government.

In a matter in which not dollars and cents are involved but the dignity of the Nation, the links connecting the authorities here with our Ambassador in Russia are so loose, that the former may move and resolute all they like, and yet the latter will remain untouched and unmoved.

Such is Business Government.

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Uploaded January 2012

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