

EDITORIAL

THE MISSING LINK.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WITH the official proposition made in Kansas to abolish one of the two Houses, and make the Legislature a one-chamber body, the wanting, or missing link has been found of certain measures that have been cropping up, and all of which are manifestations of the underlying sociologic fact that the Political State is dying, and that the sense of the fact is unconsciously felt by increasing numbers.

First was the link of "Commission Government." That link was originally meant to apply to municipalities only. The political offices of Mayor, President of Council, together with their "Cabinets" were to go, and room was to be made for a non-descript, the "Commission," with greatly circumscribed powers.

While the "Commission" idea was spreading "upward" and reaching into State and even National spheres, there came the "Oregon Proposition." It was nothing less than the abolition of the Legislature, absolutely. A set of clerks was to be left to execute the orders issued by the "Initiative," with the additional proviso of the "Recall" to yank out the clerks themselves, should they prove unsatisfactory.

The "Oregon Proposition" indicated the extreme end of the evolutionary anti-Political State line, with a clerical apology left as a substitute. The middle course now comes from Kansas—half-way between "Commissions" and "Clerks"—the One-House Legislature.

All this, of course, is only "floundering." Economic independence for all is impossible without an abundance of production; an abundance of production is impossible without co-operative labor upon a large nation-wide scale; nationwide co-operative labor demands central Administration, whatever the name may be such Administration goes by. The long and short of the story is that Central Government

is a social necessity, but that such Central Government must consist of the agents and representatives of the organized useful occupations of the land, instead of consisting, as does the Political State, of elements whose mission is to “keep order”—keep the proletariat in subjection, and the members of the Ruling class from trespassing upon one another. While making the experience that is necessary for intelligent action in the premises, that is, for the overthrow of the Political State and the rearing of the Industrial, or Socialist Government, the present floundering about is going on—tinkering around the Political State, “clipping its wings,” substituting existing with other political agencies, which amount to the same thing, the thing that is galling.

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Uploaded August 2015

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