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EDITORIAL

THE COMMISSION VISITATION.

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THE Federal House of Representatives being in the hands of Democrats, and one of the slogans that the Democratic party is grooming for the pending national campaign being “Retrenchment and Economy,” there is little, if any chance, for President Taft’s message, reminding Congress of a previous recommendation to provide for an International Commission to inquire into the rise of prices, to be hearkened to.

Echoing the good old Biblical sigh: “Of many books there is no end,” one draws comfort from the circumstances that render improbable the dumping upon a patient people of the voluminous reports, which such an International Commission would issue, which few would try to wade through, and which none will understand.

Imagine a collection of men—some from Free Trade countries which are yelling at the tariff as a “prices-raiser”; some from Protection countries, which are screaming that Free Trade “by throwing people out of work unsettles prices”; some from Trust-run countries which vociferate that the Trust-smashers are responsible for all the evils that society is suffering from; some from anti-Trust sections of the world which look upon the Trust as the Anti-Christ; some from monometallic lands which prove “mathematically” that any other standard of money must result in higher prices; others from bimetallic countries which scoff at the monometallists as insane, and charge them with “sucking the people’s blood”; etc.; etc.; etc.;—imagine such a collection of one-legged hobbyists; each having hold of a fraction, or a fraction of a fraction of the truth; none, accordingly, with even a remote grasp of the economic and sociologic issue that high prices, together with the social turmoil raised thereby, are but a manifestation of;—imagine such folks meeting, investigating, and deciding, and then issuing an “intelligent report”!

Of course no bourgeois politician expects any information from such

Commissions. Senator Root, as at the time commented upon in these columns, admitted the elusive feature of the problem—elusive to the bourgeois intellect. Such Commissions are, nevertheless, quite popular, under ordinary circumstances. They afford the politicians a chance to furnish some of their pets with junketing jobs; they also afford paper manufacturers and bookbinding firms the opportunity to stick their fingers a little deeper into the Treasury pie; finally, they afford “Wahnetas” in the I.T.U. with enlarged opportunities to exercise their patriotism.

If, only, these International Commissions would not inflict their reports upon the world, what would the Socialist workingman care! It is not he who pays the piper. Let the bourgeois indulge themselves to their hearts’ content. The money comes, anyhow, out of that portion of Labor’s product that Labor never gets. Unfortunately these Commissions insist upon raising and leaving behind them huge monuments to their ignorance.

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