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EDITORIAL

## DANGER AHEAD FOR RUSSIA.

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**T**HE titanic struggle of the masses of Russia against the autocracy of Czarism has, if the despatches report truly, entered upon a stage fraught with danger for the aspirations of humanity that the Revolution is uttering. The danger in this instance does not arise from the mere clumsiness of the “general strike” as a weapon. The “general strike” starts from the premises that the machinery of production, together with all the rest of the wealth of the land, the stored foodstuffs included, are the rightful property of the present possessors; the “general strike” cannot, accordingly, nor does it aim at aught but better conditions. Proceeding from such false premises, the “general strike” ever gives the lie to the revolutionary aspirations that underlie it. It can only aim at a compromise, at a compromise. As a weapon of the Social Revolution, the “general strike” is, accordingly, a clumsy weapon. The weapon of the Social Revolution is not the “general strike”, but the “general lock-out” of the capitalist or usurping class. The weapon of the “general lock-out” proceeds from the correct premises that the land and the fullness thereof are Labor’s, and, so proceeding, it starts with possession. It thus safeguards the Revolution against being starved out. For the wielding of this weapon, however, only such organization will stand as the Industrial Workers of the World, the old International, contemplates. Such organization does not spring up in a day. Besides being the work of laborious organizing efforts, it is the matured means for the attaining of matured purposes. The immature purpose—the emancipation of the Working Class—lies and ever lay latent in the “general strike.” The latter weapon being inadequate for the reasons above set forth, it has ever disappointed extreme expectations. Nevertheless, it serves the purpose of enlightening by pointing out both its own imperfections and the broader aims of the Movement from which it springs, it is furthermore useful in that it may gain

something. It is this latest possibility of the “general strike,” now at its acme in Russia, and whose immediate aim is the abolition of political autocracy, that is in danger, if the despatches report truly.

The despatches report that Prince Meschersky, an arch reactionist and obscurantist, and even Gen. Trepoff, the blood-thirsty executor of and improver upon Czaristic orders, are joining the Revolution. Whenever the Mescherskys and the Trepoffs join a Revolution the Revolution is in danger. Vainly will **Watt Tyler** and his lieutenants have expired on the gallows if the lesson, that their experience was meant to teach in history, is lost to our own generation. When the uprising of the poor, led by Tyler, waxed to a menace, Richard II., the representative of the privileged class that Tyler’s Movement had risen against, rode out to meet the insurgents, gave them the glad hand, joined them, offered himself to be their leader, and, being fatuously accepted, led them to the gallows. When the Mescherskys and Trepoffs become revolutionists it is time for the Revolution to be on the alert. Whatever there may be to be won in a revolution can only be endangered by the admission of such allies.

Will the Revolution of Russia have acquired the wisdom necessary for its protection at this hour of danger? or will it prove itself fatuous enough to allow itself to be Watt-Tylered?

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