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EDITORIAL

WILSON'S HALTING POSTURE.

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IN his address of acceptance, delivered at Sea Girt on the 7th of this month, Woodrow Wilson said:

“What has the result [of the present administrative measures] been? Prosperity? Yes, if by prosperity you mean vast wealth, no matter how distributed, or whether distributed at all, or not; if you mean vast enterprises built up to be presently concentrated under the control of comparatively small bodies of men, who can determine almost at pleasure whether there shall be competition or not. The nation, as a nation, has grown immensely rich. She is justly proud of her industries and of the genius of her men of affairs. They can master anything they set their minds to, and we have been greatly stimulated under their leadership and command. Their laurels are many and very green. We must accord them the great honors that are their due, and we must preserve what they have built up for us.”

This is mighty close to the rational language of Socialism.

Socialism does not denounce the Capitalist Class as a collection of unmitigated scamps and schemers—the language expressive of such a view is left to the wild-eyed Anarchist. Socialism recognizes the tremendous historic mission of the bourgeoisie—the mission of concentrating the mechanical and the living productive forces of the land to the end that abundance without the necessity of arduous toil to the possible reward of Labor. Reverently does Socialism stand in thankfulness to the bourgeoisie for having performed that work, done that task, fulfilled that mission.—On that head the language of Woodrow Wilson is the language of Socialism.

Socialism denies the bourgeois claim that the industrial monuments it has raised are the product of its own unaided genius. Socialism maintains that these monuments, tho' reared under bourgeois command, are the product of society, without whose co-operation the rearing of the monuments would have been impossible; hence, that the monuments were erected for us—for society—and that “we must

preserve what they have built up for us.”—We shall give Woodrow Wilson “the benefit of the doubt,” and consider those words to mean all that they should mean, and all that the words would mean on Socialist lips.

Had Woodrow Wilson's address begun and ended with that passage the conclusion of his having redeemed himself out of his own bourgeois class superstitions into the truth of Socialism would be warranted.

Unfortunately for the personality of Woodrow Wilson he said a good deal more—enough to reveal that he still sticks fast in the ruts of the bourgeoisie.

Socialism, adjudging to society the monuments raised under bourgeois command, adds that the fulfillment of the bourgeois' mission is the signal for his dismissal. The completion of the bourgeois industrial monuments and the continuance of bourgeois possession are contradictions in terms. Soon as the bourgeois monuments are built, their usefulness ceases, unless the monuments are transferred to the people.

Woodrow Wilson does not yet perceive the sociologic fact—perhaps, even probably so, he never will. And thus he halts, and is caught in the mass of contradictions that the rest of his address is. But Socialism marches on.

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