

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 140.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## INVESTIGATING IN RUSSIA.

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**E**VERY nation conducts its business according to its own genius. The genius of each nation depends upon its own stage on the evolutionary social scale. “Superior” nations may affect superiority of methods over “inferior” ones. Nevertheless, at bottom, the business that is transacted is the same, everywhere. The difference in methods only cloaks the identity in matter. America and Russia—antipodal social expressions, one would say—are, by one of these so-called “accidents” that Providence wickedly contrives, just now teaching the lesson glaringly. They are both “investigating”. In the one country the “investigation” is being conducted by “investigation committees”, in the other it is being conducted by “revolutionary committees”. In both instances facts are being unearthed; in both instances the unearthed facts roll crushingly upon the head of Usurpation—international Usurpation.

In America, as a result of these recently established “investigations”, our sanctimonious ruling class is finding itself stripped of its pretensions of “pillarness of sacredness”. Our leading citizens are being convicted of fraud and are paying fines; others are being exposed as thieves; others are being found out as speculators in Embassadorships, Presidentships, etc.; yet others are being found out to be establishers of “Yellow Dog Funds” and “Houses of Mirth” with the aid of which to carry on systematic corruption of legislatures; and so forth and so on. In short, the sources of the so often bragged about “industry and thrift” by which our rulers prance over the working class are being uncovered.

In Russia, the activity of the “revolutionary committee” has been driving the head and front of the offending into such corners that the latter has begun to throw “tubs to the whale”. It has begun to disgorge. These disgorgings are essentially of the nature of facts extracted by “investigating committees”. They throw light upon

previous pretenses. One of these disgorgings is the yielding to the peasants of the bulk of the private domain of the Czar and his Grand Dukes. The act of disgorging uncovers the monumental fact that these private domains amount to nearly one-third of European Russia—a territory as wide as all New England and New York, with New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri put together! In other words, the vaunted “landed prosperity of the Russian people” turns out to be the landed prosperity of a handful of freebooters—a brilliant light by which to read our own “national prosperity”.

What else but an investigation committee is the Russian “revolutionary committee”? What else than a revolutionary committee are our own “investigation committees”? The methods may be different, and different the method of arriving at the final method; the thing is the same: can the final issue be otherwise than identical? “The proletariat of each country will settle accounts with its own plunder class”—so runs the prophecy of the Socialist Seer. Each will choose its own method. They are doing so.

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Uploaded October 2008

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