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EDITORIAL

## THE SPEEDING WAVES OF THE REVOLUTION.

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**G**EORGE, Bryan and now Hearst—these are three men whose names mark the three latest successive waves of the oncoming Revolution. As individuals, they are passing entities, products, rather than producers, of the several waves that brought them to the surface. These three successive periods are not disconnected events: they are sequences.

Nineteen years ago the so-called Henry George Movement burst forth. It burst forth in the metropolis of the nation, right here in New York. George, at that time, pulsated to the Revolution. It was that spark that lighted the torch that he raised, it was that chord that responded. The class of the Usurper scented danger instinctively. Significant is the circumstance that Tammany, then nineteen years closer than it was in this year's campaign to its Tweed days, stepped forward and was acclaimed as the "Saviour of Society." Republican capitalists of "speakable" records tumbled over one another's heels in the support of the Tammany candidate. George was defeated. "The Hydra-headed monster is slain!" thus ran the confident song of triumph of Usurpation.

Not ten years had passed when the "Hydra-headed monster" leaped up anew, this time in the West. It was the notes of the George Movement adapted to a wider orchestra. Bryan became its incarnation. Like a Silurian sea it inundated the western plains, beat high against the ridges of the Rocky Mountains, and its deep bass echoes resounded in the caverns of the shops, the mills and the double decker tenements of the industrial East. Bryan also succumbed; and again rose the strident song of triumph from the throat of Usurpation. Whittier's "Laus Deo" was reproduced editorially by the capitalist press. "Revolution is slain!" was the fatuous exclamation, confidently shouted.

It did not, after that, take nine years for the gathering of the third wave. The Hearst wave, now upon the land, is, by its quality and quantity, the waves that preceded it, enlarged and improved. The “Hydra-headed monster,” “slain” twice before, re-rose. The stupor into which Usurpation is now thrown may be gauged by some of its pre-election sallies and by the ominous silence that has followed election day from that quarter.

The Hearst wave also will recede. It shares with its two predecessors the fatal weakness of its economics not being abreast of its aspirations. But wide of the truth would he fall who were to judge it only by its figure-head, or by the characters that it has brought to the surface. The slur “George and his cart-tail orators” cast at the Movement of 1886, reappeared against the Movement of nine years ago in the developed form of “Debs and his hobos.” That was a decided improvement. The slur—“Socialism!”—at this year’s Movement marks the trend of the development in the public mind with infinitely more clearness. The vague idea, implied in the “cart-tail orators,” becomes concrete in the term “hobos”—the workingman—, until “practice and theory,” as it were, stands out in the concept “Socialism.”

Wave is thus succeeding wave at shorter intervals. The billows of 1905 are incomparably fiercer than those of 1886. It is not Socialist votes that swell these waves. It is Socialist systematic and unflinching agitation, education and organization. As wave succeeds wave, and wears away, but is ever leaving Usurpation less time to recover its breath, from the deluge, an ever larger and more solid sediment is left behind—the solid soil for a New World from which, as from a new geologic stratum, a superior social breed can spring up.

The Age of Man is at hand: the Age of the Saurian is passing away. The soil of the early Eocene social system, with its baboon-like fauna of the Capitalist Class, is sinking under, and the alluvial deposits are emerging above the flood for the Socialist Republic, the Republic of Labor.

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