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EDITORIAL

THE AGE OF HYPOCRISY.

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THE Russian ruling class, the “unrefined cannibal” of our days, within what is broadly called “the pale of civilization,” has issued a proclamation to its people anent the war with Japan.

Russia, whose diplomacy is noted for its tortuousness, charges Japan in the proclamation with “treachery” for having “broken off negotiations suddenly.” Russia, whose foreign policy is to mislead and carry the stiletto under the velvet of negotiation, charges Japan with having “long desired the war.” Russia, who, to take up Manchuria and Corea themselves, has been doing nothing but encroaching, charges Japan with “greed.” Russia, whose existence is a menace to western Europe speaks of herself as “desiring to maintain peace among the nations.” Russia, whose administration is the most brazenly corrupt on earth, and whose commissaries of war are hamstrung by official corruption, imputes the miserable condition of its war forces to her “desire for peace.” Russia, who tried to cheat Japan out of time by delaying the answer to Japan while Russia was pouring troops into the Far East, charges Japan with a desire “to obtain an easy success” by what? by not allowing Russia longer time to cheat. Russia, who recklessly sacrifices her own populations, butchers them wholesale, or, by its miserable commissary department, allows them to die of famine in the face of the enemy, deprecates “the useless shedding of blood” as “unworthy the greatness and power of Russia”! And so forth and so on.

A companion piece to the Russian proclamation is President Roosevelt’s explanation of his Panama move. The treaty of 1848 pledges the United States to protect the sovereignty of Colombia. If the Roosevelts thought the safety and glory of this country were endangered by that treaty, it could have been abrogated. But no. The treaty is kept in force, and that very treaty is used as a pretext to justify the United States’ deliberate act of helping in disintegrating a country whose integrity

that very treaty pledged us to safeguard.

This is the age of hypocrisy. One thing is said, the other is done. Charity is preached, cruelty is practiced; peace is declaimed upon, war is nursed; honor is affected, dishonor is put into operation. It surely is no accident that both the ruling class of America, the “refined cannibal” and the ruling class of Russia, the “unrefined cannibal,” should be simultaneously found in the same boat.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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