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EDITORIAL

CAPITALISTS AS LOCUSTS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN an article entitled “Fortunes in Philippine Trees,” the *Technical World Magazine* contains a bit of capitalist self-portraiture that is unmatched, and unmatchable. The passage reads:

“According to recent reports a good price is paid in Hong-Kong for every stick of timber from the Philippine Islands, besides the local demand being great. Here is the chance for American lumbermen with modern methods to make fortunes, and in doing so they will not only help the adaptable Filipino as to practical things, but will insure him cash wages, something unusual in Spanish days. American lumbermen, who see the end of their industry in the not distant future, would be wise in taking time by the forelock and transferring their capital to our insular possessions.”

Vandal American capitalism, reckless of the morrow; reckless of its country's fate; intent only on profits; and, like a veritable Louis XV., who cared not what woes the future brought so he might wallow in luxury, and expressed the sentiment in the now historic words: “After me, the deluge!”—Vandal American capitalism, after denuding the land of its timber and “seeing the end of their industry in the not distant future,” now sounds the signal to their fellow-locusts and proposes to alight like a plague upon the Philippine Islands.

Hypocritic American capitalist patriotism, claiming to aim at civilizing the “adaptable Filipino,” raises the mask that covers its hideous countenance and exposes the fact that the “civilization” which it is big with, and which it proposes to bestow upon the Filipinos, is to render them the instruments for denuding their own country, and to humbug them into the belief that a “cash wage” is at all superior to a “wage in kind”—as though, long ago, John Adams had not punctured the deception by calling attention to the fact that “where the working poor are paid in return for their labor only as much money as will buy them the necessaries of

life, their condition is identical with that of the slave, who receives these necessaries at short hand; the former may be called ‘freemen’ and the latter ‘slaves,’ but the difference is imaginary only.”

Fiendish American capitalism rings to its kind the signal to do unto the Filipinos what it has done unto the American working class—the end of the lumber industry being in sight in America, it leaves the capitalist in possession of the gold that the lumber was transmuted into, but it leaves the worker stranded: the identical process is in contemplation for the Filipinos: they also are to be left stranded after their timber has taken wings into the capitalists’ pockets—“cash wages” or no “cash wages.”

It is to be hoped that other capitalist publications may resolve themselves into photographic galleries, in imitation of the *Technical World Magazine*, and publish some more capitalist self-photographies.

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