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## ‘Patriotism’ At Work

By DANIEL DE LEON

“Patriotisms” are just now at fever heat. First, the European powers, scared out of their wits by the irresistible growth of Socialism, start blood-curdling reports about “Armenian Atrocities” for the purpose of turning the stream of discontent away from themselves and upon the Sick Man of the East. Next, here in America, frightened by similar manifestations of unrest against the rule of Capital, the Government at Washington gets into patriotic hysterics about Venezuela, and solidifies the ranks of Republican and Democratic politicians in behalf of our “American Institutions endangered by British aggression in South America.” Hand in hand with all this goes the desire of speculators to make money. And back of them all stand the international capitalists—Jew and Christian—laughing in their sleeves at their scheme of being left free to commit refined cannibalism at home by affecting a Christian fervor for abolishing inhumanity abroad; an another set of international capitalists—British and American—chuckling at the prospect of enjoying greater opportunities for raiding the workers of the United States by starting the false cry on Venezuela.

And yet, ridiculous besides infamous, as is the scheme of war in Europe, on the pretext of “Armenian Atrocities,” the scheme of war on England on the pretext of “safeguarding American institutions, threatened by British aggression in Venezuela” is infinitely more ridiculous and infamous withal.

In Armenia the Christian may be and certainly is outraged by the Turk. War on the Turk is, in fact, intended to give a freer hand to Christians against Christians; the Turk’s rule of mischief would, however, be ended, whoever else’s would commence.

On the other hand, the flames of war upon England are expected to be fanned here by our Irish-American population in particular. Upon them do the war schemers count especially; the idea is to fire the Irish heart against the old enemy across the waters. Now, suppose, England is defeated, would the English vampire class, that has so long

outraged every sense of honor and of humanity in down-trodden Ireland, be the sufferer? Would the Irish wage slave be the winner? No! On the contrary, he would be the loser. The Irish soldiers under the Stars and Stripes would only have bled on behalf of that very vampire class they seek to revenge themselves upon; they would simply have played into the hands of that class, by helping it to draw attention away from the shackles it is laying, with the aid of the traitor capitalist of the land, upon the American people at home, the Irish-American wage slaves included. It is unquestionable that none more than the British capitalists would favor a foreign war by America; nothing would leave the field in America freer for them, because nothing would so successfully throw dust into the public eyes, and conceal their tricks.

The plan of war against the Turk only plays Christian against Musulman; the plan of war against England is meant to play the Irish against themselves, the American proletariat in general against itself.

An enlightened people, with eyes clarified by Socialist science, and hearts fired by Socialist morality would next November wrest Congress from the felon class that now holds it, place it in the hands of the working class, and turn the war cry from its present inhuman purposes to "War on the Capitalist Exploiters.

We shall see what we shall see.

[Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.](#)

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