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FOURTH EDITORIAL

“The Crime of ’98!”

By DANIEL DE LEON

If what Edison is said to have said is true, Klondykes are to be set up at our very doors, yielding a plenteous supply of gold, then may we be ready for some startling crook transformation on the political stage of capitalism. The “Crime of ’72” will be thrown into the shade; the “Crime of ’98” will then be the spectre that will be conjured up. No longer will the threat of “wading in blood up to the bridles of our horses” proceed from infuriated stock-holders in silver mines; the cry will come from infuriated holders of stock in gold mines; Bryan will change places with McKinley; the former will become the palladium of “American Honor” and of our “Sacred Institutions”, while the Major will become the “revolutionist” and “calamity howler”. All this may we look to if Edison has been quoted rightly and himself is not mistaken.

The signs are numerous that the campaign of 1900 may leave all others in the shade. If such production of gold as is threatened now becomes a fact, the 1900 campaign, as far as the two wings of capital are concerned, will present the funniest spectacle yet seen. Gold being “demonetized” by its own plentifulness, the “Repudiationists” of to-day will become the “Sound Money” men of then; and the “Sound Money” hypocrites of to-day will then be arrayed in the trappings of our present “Repudiationists”.

While that farce is being enacted on the stage of our Robber Class, it is to be hoped that the Robbed Class will have by that time so well pulled itself together as to kick them both off the scene and send them packing.

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