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FIRST EDITORIAL

“Cosey Homes.”

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Emissaries of the Hawaiian capitalist planters have begun work to lure American labor away from American capitalists, and give the Hawaii bosses a chance. These emissaries are issuing broadcast flaming accounts about Hawaii, and hold to the workers the prospect of “cosey homes” on the Hawaiian fields.

Even if these emissaries were not, as they are, subject to “unguarded” moments, no one, who ever read the sparkling accounts of America, distributed among the working people of Europe, with intent of luring them over to our shores, and giving the American bosses a chance, can fail to recognize the identity of the tune in two songs. Between the lines, between the notes, one can distinctly hear the sound of the smacking lips of the respective capitalists, who, short of sheep to fleece and to turn into mutton chops, cast longing eyes upon the fleeciful and juiceful proletarians whom other capitalists can dispose of. When the supply of labor in America was below the demand, our American capitalists dangled before the wretched proletariat of Europe visions of “cosey homes” in America; now that the Hawaiian capitalists are anxious for more plentiful wool than the Japanese and Chinese laborer can yield, they hold up the same mirage to the now wretched proletariat of America. So far the two incidents are exactly alike. The significance of the present one lies in the confidence that the capitalists and their emissaries have acquired in their capacity to defraud the workers and in the latter’s gullibility.

Different from their American prototypes who started to rope European labor, these Hawaiian bunco steerers are quite outspoken upon their real plans in the columns of the papers that they do not expect the workers to read, or which, even if read, they do not expect the workers to understand. For instance, this is what one of them says:

“There are now about 25,000 laborers employed on about 60,000 acres. These laborers are mainly coolies. If in their stead we had 8,000 American workers these could produce twice as much. Then also, at the time of the crop an extra amount of

labor is always needed. This could be had if American labor could be secured, because at the picking season the wives and children of the workmen could take a hand. The coolies don't bring either wives or children along.”

In other words, the “cosey homes” that the Hawaiian capitalists are holding out to the American workers are “homes,” sheltering, first, heads of families that are exploited twice as much as the coolies; and, second, a reserved army of labor, in the shape of wives and children, kept at the cost of the already amply exploited father, and for the benefit of the doubly prosperous boss.

Such are the inmates of the “cosey homes” that capitalism has for the wealth producers everywhere.

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

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