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FIRST EDITORIAL

“EDUCATING” THE CONQUEROR.

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It has been the policy of England for many years to import specimens of the natives from the many new provinces acquired. This is done ostensibly for scientific and spectacular purposes, but in reality the object is simply to show the people in what kind of humanity the money of the nation has been invested. While they were on British soil, all the resources of the empire were displayed before them. The educational institutions were opened, the factories, the churches, and the mines were opened to their view.

Then the English press said in a loud voice:—“We have been giving the heathen all the advantages we possess. We are educating them, and we gain in intellect, ourselves, by coming in contact with the inhabitants of distant lands. It is a great, and a charitable work on which we have entered. It is a work of humanity, and for the good of humanity.

The English press said in a low voice, or else implied: “These men will go back to their native stamping ground, and will tell of the greatness of our resources. We have got them all right, and we have held them long enough to frighten any thoughts of rebellion which might arise, and we have succeeded in injecting enough of the poison of capitalism in their veins to make them our allies should trouble occur. Results will be well worth the money paid.”

We do the same thing occasionally to the Indians. They come to Washington and see the “Great Father,” and they are allowed also to inspect our material civilization, especially that part of it which consists of instruments of destruction. Our press is a little more ingenuous than the English press, and it admits that the reason for expending money in car-fare for the Poor Lo is that we wish him to see with his own eyes our might and our power to crush. This lesson of the trip is supposed to be carried back entire to the tribe.

Our relations with the once Spanish provinces have forced upon us the necessity of dealing in the exhibition game to a greater extent than we formerly did. Instead of running a dozen Indian chiefs to Washington, we take a few transports

full of Cuban teachers here and “educate” them. It is admitted that the scholastic part of the plan did not come up to expectations. But that counts for little as we succeeded in impressing our national greatness and power upon all the visitors. We did it by abusing them the instant they boarded the transports.

When the course at Harvard was finished, it would almost seem that we should have used every instant to make the teachers more efficient in their work, and take them only on such excursions as could tend directly to increase their knowledge and ability as instructors. Instead of that we sent them to view the navy yards at Portsmouth, Charlestown, and Newport. They were then hurried to Springfield, and the arsenal was exposed to their view. The trip to Washington was for the purpose of allowing an insight into the equipment of our armies, and giving McKinley an additional thrill as he gazed upon his newly, and forcibly, acquired subjects. Then there was also a trip to—colleges? training schools? museums? theatres? or other institutions of an educational importance? Not a bit of it: the teachers were carted to West Point, where they could be still further impressed.

The message they will take back to their island is: the United States is rich in armies, in armaments, in ships, and in resources to back all these things. It pays the strictest attention to the training of its men, and it would be useless for us to go against them at any time, or in any way.

That is the lesson that was expected.

We have citizens who must be taught the greatness and force of our nation. We take those nearest to us and we “impress” them. The next move must be to take those far away, and either impress them, or else blot them out from the face of the earth.

The latter course has already commenced, as the record of our army in the Philippines shows.

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

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