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SECOND EDITORIAL

“THE PORTS.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

For years the most astute diplomats of Europe have been making every effort to secure for the Governments they represent a port in China. Lying, intriguing and all else that goes to the making of the game of diplomacy was resorted to, and the cannon of the soldier, in some cases, supplementing the craft of the diplomat.

These ports, gained at such painful cost to the losers, were supposed to be intended as ports of entry for goods made by the nations who had opened the ports: ports for IMPORT. Cotton goods, bibles, whiskey, opium and other products were to be shipped from the Western Nations and rammed down the throats of China via the ports. That was the original purpose. How curiously things sometimes turn out! Instead of manufactured articles from Europe and America going in at these ports, we now see those ports put to a new use: they have become ports of EXPORT for a brand new article for consumption in Europe and America. Instead of ports for IMPORTS they have become ports for EXPORTS. And the goods labeled “Made in China” have the same poisonous and adulterated appearance that the white man’s shipments to China bore. All the marks of fraud and shoddy, typical of the imports, loom up on the exports. That new article is “NEWS.”

Manufactured telegrams, letters and dispatches are being exported from China through the “ports” in such profusion as to plainly indicate that an extensive plant is in operation in “the ports” for their manufacture. Day after day, with the regularity of clock work, these are sent out regardless whether they tally with one another or not. As no prices are quoted on these manufactures, there must have been “arrangements between gentlemen” made before hand to take the whole output at profitable figures, and place it where it will do the most good.

It would be interesting to know the price of a cablegram which “massacres a few thousands of whites” and how much discount the buyer gets if he pays before the next shipment arrives which unkills the massacred. To turn exiled missionaries,

killed by Chinese, into a source of profit was a brilliant move of German capitalism; to turn ports for import into ports for exporting manufactured and lying telegrams is a more brilliant move, which Yankee, English, German and French capitalism cooperate in.

Beware of the exports labeled "Made in China."

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

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