

EDITORIAL

OUTSPOKEN HEARST.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SENOR NICOLAS SALMERON'S article in the London *The International* on the causes of the downfall of Spain, already referred to in these columns,¹ contains a passage of special interest in connection with the recent turmoil in Spain.

As is generally known, and was specifically brought out in the luminous article dated from Barcelona and published in these columns last week,² the anti-militarist demonstration and subsequent general strike to back it up, radiated from the province of Catalonia, situated on the north-eastern coast of the Peninsula. Catalonia started the ball rolling, and sustained the brunt of the fray. It was there that the demonstrations, both against the war in Africa and in the general strike, were most effective.

Now, then, Senor Salmeron states:

“But the iron constraint, which has confined the intellect of Spain for so long and even down to our modern times naturally engendered in the border populations, whose livelier temperament is so well known, the wish to separate from the unprogressive bulk of the community. THIS EXPLAINS THE FALLING AWAY OF PORTUGAL, which had so long been a part of Spain, AND THE SEPARATIST STRUGGLE OF CATALONIA, the leading spirits and population of which are struggling if not for union with neighboring France, yet for the greatest possible independence of the Spanish State.”

Although not written, in fact, for the very reason that it was not written with an eye to recent events in Spain, the passage just quoted chimes in with the things that have happened, and contributes not a little to explain them.

¹ [“The Conflict in Spain,” *Daily People*, September 5, 1909.—R.B.]

² [To be appended at a later date.—R.B.]

The periodical revolts, of which Catalonia, the most capitalistically developed section of Spain, is the center, draw their sap from inspirations that are not exclusively Socialistic. To-day, whatever progressive aspiration a country harbors necessarily falls in line behind Socialist leadership.

Thus the progressive aspirations of Catalonia, a country that is far from being numerically strong in Socialist forces, readily become tributary to the internationally powerful stream of Socialism.

Thus the ringing anti-militarist Socialist resolution, enunciated at Stuttgart, first foments and, in turn, receives support from elements in the world who are in permanence up in arms against Tyranny, Ignorance and Bigotry.

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

Uploaded by Donna Bills, October 2010

socialists@slp.org