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EDITORIAL

NICARAGUA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

It is not in biology only that distant things appear closely connected. The same is true in sociology. An earthquake in Java may produce a tidal-wave along the coasts of Portugal; and the one and the other may both be simultaneous products of one central cause. Just so in Sociology. The political commotion now going on simultaneously in the Republic of Nicaragua and in the Archipelago of the Philippines is a case in point.

In the Philippines, Filipinos are being slaughtered right and left; what with the casualties on both sides, the diseases that break out in our camp around Manila, the consequent suffering of the whole population now in hand to hand conflict there, the Philippines are in terrific commotion: one sees there reproduced, on the social field, all the furies that, on the material field, are seen in cases of earthquakes.

While that is going on in the antipodes, a social tidal-wave strikes the shores of Nicaragua. Men are seen to rise in arms; they array themselves in hostile camps, pursue and draw themselves up against each other; blood flows; lives are lost; conflagrations consume homes and devastate fields. To all external appearances, at least, the spectacle in the Philippines and the spectacle in Nicaragua are alike. There would be nothing instructive in this fact, were it the only fact; but it is not.

The bloodshed and desolation in Nicaragua is connected, closely connected, with the bloodshed and desolation in the Philippines, as closely connected as was the Java earthquake with the tidal-wave that knocked Lisbon into a heap of ruins. As both the latter were the result of a central physical disturbance, proceeding from the center of our globe, so the former are both the result of a central socio-economic disorder, proceeding from one socio-economic center. What that disorder is and which that social center, the following dispatch brings out clear enough:

New York financiers, whose contract to build the Nicaraguan Canal, expires in October next, are back of a scheme to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government in

order to secure from the new Government concessions which will enable them permanently to control the building of the canal.

Several times have we taken occasion to point the moral taught by similar facts and tersely expressed by P.J. Dunning:

Capital is said to fly disturbance and strife and to be timid, which is very true; but this is very incompletely stating the question. Capital eschews no profit, or very small profit, just as Nature was formerly said to abhor a vacuum. With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 per cent. will insure its employment anywhere; 20 per cent. certain, will produce eagerness; 50 per cent., positive audacity; 100 per cent., will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent., and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged. If turbulence and strife will bring a profit, it will freely encourage both.

From the socio-economic center of United States capitalism,—congested, smothering in the mammoth hugeness of its plunder from the working class, and driven, like explosive gases, by the very law of its existence, to expand and absorb—, from that center is proceeding now the simultaneous turbulence and strife that, like earthquakes and tidal-waves, are now shaking Nicaragua and the antipodal Philippines, bringing death and desolation to their peoples—and mourning into many an American home.

Civilization, resting (?) on capitalism, rests (?) on a volcano.

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

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