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EDITORIAL

THE YELLOW MAN'S BURDEN.

By DANIEL DE LEON

JAPAN is putting a foot note to Kipling's "White Man's Burden" that knocks the poem overboard, and itself becomes the real poem.

To say nothing of the civilizing effect upon Russia that the Japanese victories will have, what a commentary are not these victories upon the attitude that Western Europe has hitherto observed towards Russia! The "White Man," whom Kipling apotheosized, stands exposed—not his Russian representative only but everywhere else. Western Europe knew well enough that Russia was synonymous with barbarism, rude, rough, uncouth, yet it not only tolerated the barbarian, it encouraged him by its friendship, and it even bowed to it—to what? to a bluff!

The "Yellow Man" has torn the veil of mystification. He dared, and he did. The late events at the Liautung peninsula proves the cravenness and lack of moral fiber on the part of the "White Man's" governments for fully the last hundred years. The Russian Empire, at the thought of which all trembled, with which some even entered into alliances, and whose might was even the subject of poet's songs, has been proven to be a colossal heap of corruption, with a brutified mass below and a worthless ruling class above.

The "Yellow Man's" self-respect, his spirited conduct, the bravery he displays, the evidences of his following an ideal—in short the essentials on which to build up civilization are being cannonaded into the White Man. Immeasurable are the possibilities upon the whole world of this "Yellow Man's" conduct; and the possibilities are for good.

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

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slpns@slp.org