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SECOND EDITORIAL

DISGRACEFUL ATTITUDE OF CONTINENTAL POWERS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

The Powers of Continental Europe are in a frenzy of joy at the thrashing England is receiving at the hands of the Boers. Is this joy due to their admiration of the brilliant military strategy displayed by the Boers? No! Is it due to their sympathy with a country striving to gain its political freedom? No! The joy is due to the fact that each of these rejoicing Powers, and all combined, have been bested by the piratical capitalist ruling class of England in the game that each of these Powers have taken a hand in, but never could reach "British perfection."

But the spectacle is doubly disgraceful. Besides being disgraceful in that it betrays the joy of little bullies at the trials of a big bully, it is disgraceful in that the sense of injured dignity that these Continental Powers certainly retain against England for her repeated trespasses upon them, can be soothed, and the injuries avenged if these Powers but abandoned their own home capitalist piratical social system.

The weakness of the Continental Powers lies in that they are capitalist Powers; on that field England has the start of them, and holds the sword over their heads just because to capitalist countries colonies are a necessity, and the navy of England is, therefore, able to cripple the needed commerce of all her continental enviers. But capitalism dropped, the nation co-operatively organized, production of the necessaries of life making the upward jump that it then would, not only would the happiness of those countries increase a thousand-fold, but they would become infinitely more powerful. Their striking arm—if the striking of a foe should be deemed advisable—could be raised with irresistible force against a nation that is still trammelled by the capitalist system;—and then the bullying power of England would be at an end.

But this course the Continental Powers will not take. They prefer to snarl at

England rather than to free themselves. It is left to the class-conscious Proletariat of Continental Europe to perform this all-round important task, in the performance of which the British class-conscious Proletariat will itself take a hand, thus overthrowing the disgrace-breeding international capitalist class.

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