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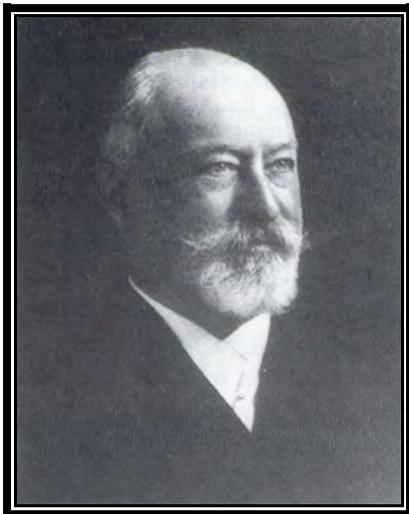
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EDITORIAL

A JAPANESE MASTERPIECE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

JACOB H. Schiff is with us once more. He has just returned from a tour of Japan, and is enthusiastic in his descriptions of what he saw. Japan is busy and prosperous. "Everybody in Japan appears to do work of some kind; it is a country without beggars, without drunkards, and all are polite and good natured. Nothing is heard or seen of the effects of the recent war." This is truly a beautiful



JACOB SCHIFF (1847-1920)

picture; one that is full of contagious optimism, as every picture of "good times" is bound to be; a picture that should be enjoyed to the full. That Jacob H. Schiff is intimately interested in Japanese war bonds and the booming of Japan, must not be permitted to interfere with his pleasure; the Equitable Life Insurance investigation has demonstrated that Jacob H. Schiff's credibility as a witness and his disinterestedness as a banker, are both above reproach. Nor should recent newspaper clippings from Japanese sources descriptive of the Empress's generosity in distributing thousands of crutches to her crippled subjects; nor yet the reports of "our" foreign missionary societies on the ravages of famine arising from the neglect of the rice fields during the war; nor even the articles in the native Socialist press concerning the unemployed and increase of strikes, be permitted to dissipate the delightful sensations attended {sic} a glimpse of Schiff's Japanese masterpiece. That mutilation, starvation, unemployment and social strife afflict a country, does not prove that country is not prosperous. Seventeen thousand seven hundred workingmen were either killed or injured in the Pittsburg district during 1905. Carnegie, Frick, Schwab and all the other millionaires of the Pittsburg

district, assure us that prosperity reigns in this country. A country that possesses a large working class capable of yielding the surplus value necessary to the successful exploitation of themselves by the international capitalist class, despite the outrageous abuse of both man and nature, is a prosperous country.

This fact capitalism, the only force having the power to do so, has firmly established. Hence, Schiff's declaration of Japanese prosperity is not dictated by personal interests, but promulgated according to the standards of truth set up by capitalist society, i.e., by capitalist interests. Prosperity does exist in Japan—for the capitalist class. That point Schiff's masterpiece makes clear.

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