

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 9, NO. 220.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

NEVADA BY HER GUNS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THERE is quite an outcry from Washington against the Nevada Legislature for the resolution it proposed, and even for the amended one which it adopted in the matter of the Japanese.

Even the amended resolution, it is correctly said, "pays scant respect to the President." Such a passage, for instance, as "we recommend to the State of California to pay no attention whatever to the admonition of the President, but to go ahead and enact such stringent measures as will absolutely stop forthwith the encroachment of the Japanese," is said, correctly enough, to imply treason to the Constitution, which vests in Congress the power to legislate in certain matters, and which recognizes treaties as the supreme law of the land, subject to abrogated by no lesser powers than those who enact them. All this is correct enough, but falls wide of the mark, being only half the truth.

The power to issue money, etc., is no less a national prerogative than the power to conclude treaties. Nevertheless, it was not much more than a year ago that a body of men in Nevada, inferior even than the Legislature of the State, to wit, the mine owners of Goldfield, took it upon themselves to issue money; they "paid" their employes with scrip; and when these gagged, then the self-appointed money-issuers declared "Law," "Order," "Religion," the "Family," to say nothing of "Patriotism," were assailed; and they appealed to Washington for protection to "Law," "Order," etc. The echoes of the appeal eastward were still reverberating along the hollows of the eastern hills when the hollows of the western hills of the State became vocal to the tramp of the military, Federal troops, ordered from Washington to proceed at the double quick from California to the rescue of "Law," "Order," "Religion," etc.

If individual mine owners of Nevada, not elected by anybody whatever, may set themselves above the Constitution, and obtain from Washington the backing of the

mailed hand, why should not the collective body of elected representatives of the State in parliamentary language tell the President to go to — ?

The breach of a dozen treaties with Japan, or any other country, by a State Legislature can not begin to have the demoralizing effect of private mints. Congress winked dozingly at the latter, why start at the former? Why this swallowing of a camel and straining at a gnat?

Go it, Nevada, for all you are worth!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded June 2010

slpns@slp.org