

DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

AN OPEN LETTER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

TO Wm. O. McDowell,
President of the League of Peace, New York.
Dear Sir,

It is not that the *Daily People* thirsts for war, nor is it that the *Daily People* lacks appreciation of the desire for international peace—on the contrary, it is for the very reason that the *Daily People*, being an organ of the Socialist Labor Party, strains for peace on earth, that it must decline your request to co-operate with your efforts for an “Electoral College” of the “United Nations of the World,” with the International Court at The Hague as the “Judiciary Department,” the united national parliaments of the world as the “Legislative Department,” and an “Executive whose title shall be “The Peacemaker.””

May we be frank with you, without giving offence? Your plan is a close parallel with the Greenback Movement. The Greenback Movement aspired to institute Socialist Money before instituting Socialist Production—an absurdity. Your aspire to institute Social Peace before instituting Economic Peace—an equal absurdity.

No more than any other country is our own, being under the Rule of Capital, free from entangling alliances, as you erroneously imagine the United States to be.

As much as any Government ours is entangled in war-breeding alliances with others. The reason should be obvious.

Like all other Governments our own is on a footing of social war with the bulk of its own population—the Working Class. War at home compels alliances abroad.

As the Working Class of this and other lands, in the measure that it grows conscious of its class interests, hence, of its lofty class mission, forthwith allies itself with the Working Class of all other lands, so also does the Capitalist Class of this and other lands, being up to the hilt conscious of its own class interests, hence, of its

own worldling mission, enter into close alliance with the Ruling Class of other lands.

Beyond that point, war at home dictates a different policy to the two classes. While to the ruled, or Working Class, war at home dictates peace with its allies, the whole Working Class abroad, hence ultimate, international peace, war at home dictates to the ruling, or Capitalist Class, peace with only some of its allies abroad, and war with others. The reason for the different effect upon the two Classes of war at home lies in their social anatomy.

The social anatomy of the Working Class requires peace. The social anatomy of the Capitalist Class requires struggle. The law of existence of the Working Class is fraternity. The law of existence of the Capitalist Class is: “Each man’s hand against all men’s throats.” To expect international peace, or that any “clever contrivance” may insure international peace, so long as the capitalist system prevails is to ignore the premises of Peace, as completely as Greenbackism ignored the premises of Socialist Money. It will not take long, if your mechanism for the world’s peace is ever launched, before your Executive, “The Peacemaker,” will look like the proverbial umpire at a baseball game.

Profoundly convinced of the Bible wisdom that warns against preaching peace, peace, where there is no peace possible, and animated with the sanely noble and nobly sane Socialist aspiration to end the present regime of universal warfare, the organ of the Socialist Labor Party has no choice but to expose the visionariness of your project, and will continue to hew close to the lines that social science lays down—promote by agitation and education the organization of the working class for the overthrow of the Capitalist reign of human Exploitation, and its substitution with the Socialist reign of human Justice.

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