

EDITORIAL

WHO ARE THE CHRISTIANS?

By DANIEL DE LEON

WITH conflagration threatening all Europe as the immediate consequence of the butchery, with its resultant pestilence, famine and woe, in the Balkans, who is it that raises the cry “Peace on earth!”?

Is it, perchance, the court chaplains, the “ordained” gentlemen, keepers of the conscience of the Rulers?

Or is it, perchance, the masters of the large industrial plants on the continent and British isles, of whom and for whom it has been claimed that “though business is industrial war, it promotes military peace”?

Or is it, perchance, the prelates, whom these business concerns keep in high pay,—is it, perchance any of them, so ready otherwise pietistically to denounce Socialism as a “breeder of strife”?

Or, considering that these ostentatiously Christian elements are, all of them, too near the storm center not to succumb to the “force of environment”, and, therefore extending charity to them, what about their kin, on this side of the waters? Is it, perchance, these who, being untrammelled by compelling circumstances, give free vent to their much boasted of Christianity, and urge their kin in Europe that peace be on earth?

No; it is none of these from whom the cry for “Peace!” goes up. On the contrary. Many of them are tugging hard for bloodshed, while not from a single pulpit has the command of the Prince of Peace been heard. In so far as pulpitedom has been heard from it has been to pronounce blessings upon the instruments of War and upon the draperies that represent the same.

Is, then, the world still primitively barbarian, loving blood and delighting in the measures to shed it? No. There is balm in Gilead. There is a camp many millions strong that encircles the globe, and which, to the extent that it was physically pos-

sible to have all its constituencies represented, has met in Basle, Switzerland, and there caused its collective voice to be heard against the “business” and “dynastic” interests that require, that thrive upon, and that demand War. That camp is the Socialist camp. Upon its collective brow rests the Star of Peace—that camp, that camp alone represents all that is worthy in the term “Christianity.”

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