

EDITORIAL

AND SULZER SWEARS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SHORTLY before the passage of the Panama Canal bill, which is being interpreted abroad as a breach of international faith by the Government at Washington, there was adopted by the two Houses of Congress a Joint Resolution, introduced by Representative Sulzer, empowering the President to extend an invitation to all the members of the national legislative bodies of the various nations of the world to assemble in Washington in 1915 to discuss matters relating to universal peace. Shortly after the passage of the above referred-to Panama Canal bill, “the friends of international arbitration” abroad are reported “to express fears that the new Panama Canal law will upset the Hague Arbitration Tribunal.”

From this sequence of events the conclusion should be that the Hague Arbitration Tribunal did not need to be upset, but already was upset; or was ineffective, in the opinion of those who passed the Joint Resolution in Congress for an international conference on peace at Washington.

These Peace Conferences are becoming more and more tiresome and ridiculous; still more ridiculous and tiresome the successive propositions for further Peace Conferences. Naturally so. They are self-contradictory. The class that calls them into being boasts about that feature of capitalism that compels struggle—“man-making struggle”—“character-building struggle.” No sooner is one of these “insurers of peace on earth” set up when another is wanted, to insure the peace of the first; and then a third to insure the peace of the second—world without end.

Mr. Sulzer, we are informed, is a gentleman of refinement. That he schemes schemes for universal peace, notwithstanding his inability to make peace among his own constituency, the brewery magnates, is no argument against his refinement. The most refined of folks often are seen to find entertainment in soap bubbles. Nevertheless when bubble bursts against bubble, and causes the extinction of iridescent

hues, an occasional cuss-word does trill from the most refined of throats. We are informed that such a thing has actually happened. When the Panama Canal bill which the Hon. William Sulzer contributed in flinging into space, collided with the Peace Conference bubble, that he had himself blown into space, the gentleman swore. At any rate he should have sworn.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded December 2013

slpns@slp.org