

EDITORIAL

THE STENCH OF TAFTISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT was well done on the part of President Wilson to answer the long letter,—with which that remnant of Taft in the Department of State, Acting Secretary Huntington Wilson, sent his peremptory resignation—with just two lines accepting the same. President Wilson’s short answer was a snuffer clapped upon the ill smells of Taft’s “Dollar Diplomacy,” which the President had just squelched in the matter of the China loan, and which the Acting Secretary sought to “ventilate.”

Excellent as that was on the part of the President, the Socialist is justified to “raise the lid.” From under there will come vapors which, by the very offensiveness of their odor to the economic nose, may serve to point a moral and adorn a tale.

The now ex-Acting Secretary, seeking to justify the policy of the Taft Administration in securing membership among the foreign Powers which were negotiating a loan with China, says:

“It was deemed imperative that there should be American participation in the rehabilitation of China’s finances, in order to make sure of the presence of the potent, friendly, and disinterested influence of the United States. The only practicable method of such participation was by the use of reliable American bankers.”

Thus does the fatality that pursues Wrong pursue Wrong to the point of self-exposure.

As if not sufficiently exposed by President Wilson’s statement, the Taft policy of shamelessly hypocritical Plutocracy felt driven to expose itself more completely. At this very season when the iniquities of the Plutocracy, centered in the banking system, are being uncovered by Senator La Follette and Congressional investigations;

at this very season, when the “reliable American bankers” are being right and left convicted of acting like vultures towards their own country—driving it into debt, then mortgaging it, then corrupting its legislators, then violating the law with the confidence of burglars “in with the police”;—at this very season the now ex-Acting Secretary of State has the effrontery to seek to justify the policy of the Taft Administration towards the young republic of China, as a disinterested policy, in proof of which disinterestedness “reliable American bankers” were boosted into the Four Powers conspiracy, enlarged thereby into a conspiracy of Five Powers.

Whatever the reason thereof, the existence must be recognized of the law which forces the Evil Powers of Society to take, where the necessary length of rope is not given them wherewith to hang themselves.

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