

The People.

VOL. VIII, NO. 17.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JULY 24, 1898.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

EDITORIAL

Their Interests.

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We are an independent country, are we? England sues for our friendship, does she? The reverse is true. We are ruled by the English ruling class. Parliament may not, and does not, in as many words legislate for America; but the English ruling class, that rules England, rules also America, and does so by virtue of the same circumstance, to wit, its ownership of the capital of both countries.

The war now on has furnished occasion to realize the fact. It was an incident of the war that a war loan, so-called popular loan, together with a war tax was ordered. The attitude of the British ruling class on the latter is of deep economic and social significance.

Among the “interests” taxed are railroad interests. These, the popular superstition has it, belong to our “American Plutocrats.” Not so. To whom they belong the growl from the British capitalists against taxing railroad interests may give an inkling. The British papers and British interviewers protest. They do not only argue against the tax as “a detriment to the best interests of America” (meaning thereby their plantation), they are so much put out about it that they even forget the proprieties of their rôle, and they came out boldly, though injudiciously, with the truth. One of them puts it in this way:

“It is to be hoped that the Americans do not mean, by this railway tax, to tax OUR interests.”

“Our” interests is certainly good. The word dropping from the mouths of British capitalists, who are alluding, not to property they have stolen in England and hold there by the right divine termed “Vested Rights,” and which the Campbell Clan put in plainer language when it declared that

He shall take who has the power,
And he shall hold who can;

but who allude to property located here in America;—such word and all that it reveals are well worth the war.

The men who bled in the Philippines and on the sun-scorched beaches of Santiago, neither bled nor died in vain. True, they imagined they sacrificed themselves on the altars of the Goddess of Liberty to free others peoples, and in that they were in error; yet the blood they spilt and the lives they lost were well spent. They were sacrificed on the altar of Knowledge; they gave occasion to ascertain the fact as to who our real rulers are.

Nor is the fact a barren one. The nation whose magnanimous sons will lay down their lives that others may be free, is certain to have enough sons, and daughters too, equally magnanimous to lay down their lives that they themselves be free. "Our" interests, admitted by British plutocrats, will bring home to our people a series of connected facts; the arch tyrant Capitalism will stand bare;—and to stand bare is synonymous with begin smitten hip and thigh, and cast into the lumber room.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded December 2003