

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 12.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## BERGER'S MISS NO. 11.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**P**RESUMABLY in silent admiration, so far as the *Congressional Record* gives any token, the House granted on May 17 the request of Representative James L. Slayden of Texas to have inserted in the *Record* the address which he delivered nearly a fortnight previous before the Third National Peace Congress, at Baltimore.

The address bore upon the relations of the United States to other American Governments and upon the Monroe Doctrine. Some few portions of it are a correct historic presentation of ancient history; altogether, the address was cast in a mold to deceive, to perpetuate popular superstitions that are harmful to the working class, to confirm popular errors that conceal the misconduct of Congress and the Administration, and to promote popular delusions to the end of giving a free hand to the bourgeoisie for its policy of foreign rapine, as now threatened against Hayti, in alliance with monarchic governments.

The address slurred over the fact that the monarchic Governments of Europe were speedily reconciled to the idea of a republic in America, not out of fear for the then young and weak United States, but because the Kings of Europe, together with their Noble pursuivants, took note of the rapidly cumulating evidences that a republic need not necessarily be a guarantor against privilege. The evidence of a Ruling Class, swinging here into the saddle, satisfied the Crowns and Nobles of Europe that they needed not fear for "the evil effects," or the example of republican America among their subjects and vassals at home; on the contrary, they could count upon the Ruling Class of America as a new ally.—The language of the address was intended to cultivate the, to the workers, harmful superstition that "kingship" means tyranny, "republicanism" freedom.

The address is worded in a manner to conceal the fact of our war against Spain

having had for its moving spring the intrigues of stockjobbers and Trust land-grabbers. It conceals the fact in volumes of denunciations of "stockjobbers' and moneylenders' wars" while seeking to throw the mantle of international law over the fishy transactions and scandal of the Bermudez Asphalt Syndicate through the United States legation in Venezuela.

The address strikes the posture of righteousness and affects to believe peace possible between the Nations of America through the command "love thy neighbor as thyself," thereby evading the glaring fact of the itch for war on the part of our soldiers of fortune, obedient to the itch of our American capitalists for rapine in Latin America.

The purpose of printing in the *Congressional Record* such a series of matter poisonous to enlightenment, especially in these days of popular effervescence, is transparently obvious. If objection is raised, nothing that is not said in the House can appear in the *Record*. In this instance the usage of the House makes, and justly so, one Member a majority. There was no objection raised. With the tacit consent of Victor L. Berger, whose objection would have been enough to keep the poison out, in went the poison.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded May 2012

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