

EDITORIAL

## SISSON'S THROWN AWAY MANUSCRIPT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE tariff bill being before the House, on April 28, Representative Underwood yielded five minutes of his time to his Democratic colleague, Thomas U. Sisson of Mississippi, to unbosom himself. The subject of Representative Sisson's unbosoming was not the tariff; it was the alien ownership of land; in other words, it was the then tumultuously pending land bill of California; to be still more precise, the Representative's subject was Jingoism, "dressed up naked."

Here are two passages that are the keynote of the speech:

"She [Japan] complains because her people cannot come and remain with us and draw from our soil its riches and send them to Japan to sustain her people and her Government across the sea, subject all the while to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and protected by him, and who can in the event of war assemble all his loyal subjects already in this country, and with their substance which they have drawn from our soil wage war against us."

And this other, still shorter and terser:

"I would not surrender this standard [our high standard of living and our high standard of manhood] until we had spent the last life and the last drop of blood that could be spent in so righteous a cause."

Washington despatches report that the White House was so apprehensive of a strain in our relations with Japan, that, learning that Representative Sisson had announced his intention to continue on May 23 his remarks of April 28, "he was seen." He must have been "seen," and successfully too, because the speech that he did deliver on May 23 was very different in nature from the speech that was to be expected from so well posted a source. The manuscript of the speech that was intended to be delivered must have been thrown away. When found it will be found to

have run this wise:

“I know it will be said that what I am objecting to in the program of the Emperor of Japan, and in the consequences to us of that program, is a program that is being put through in West Virginia, now, by the nobility of Austro-Hungary, and without any objection on my part. I know that the mine-owning interests of West Virginia admit with admirable frankness that their purpose is to displace the domestic and native mountain miners of the State with Hungarian miners. I know that they state their reason why with equal frankness, to wit, that more work can be got out of the Hungarian and for less pay than out of the native miner. I know, because I am no fool, that, the carrying out of this program in West Virginia implies the co-operation of the Austro-Hungarian nobility, and that the carrying out of the program also means that the Hungarian miner will do all that we say the Japanese immigrant would do—he will ‘draw from our soil its riches’; he will ‘send these riches to’ Austro-Hungary to furnish her people with cash to pay rent to the nobility, and thus ‘sustain their Government across the sea’; and the ‘high standard of living’ and the ‘high standard of manhood,’ now prevalent among our domestic wage earners will be lowered because of the imposition that it will be easier for us to practice upon men with no connections in our country, men who, above all, are tongue-tied, not knowing our language, and who will not know what struck them when we set up drum-head courts-martial, and sentence them to jail if they refuse to sweat the wealth that is expected of them. Mr. Speaker—I know all that, and it matters not. Before the Hungarian nobility can capture our land we will have captured their titles through our heiresses. Accordingly, you will readily perceive the difference of the situation between us and Hungary, on the one side, and, on the other side, us and Japan, whose nobility has, so far, not made any move indicating appreciation of our heiresses. It follows that the same thing that we may justly allow and encourage when done by the Hungarian, if done by the Jap, calls for war!—war!—burlud, Iargo, burlud!”

It is to be hoped that Sisson's thrown away speech may yet be found.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)