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SECOND EDITORIAL

## Paving the Way for Amalgamation With the Filipinos.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**he question of the annexation of the Philippines involves just one point, and that point sticks out clearly however many the points raised to obscure it. The point is not, whether it is or is not in keeping with our "manifest destiny" ever to haul down our flag where once it was raised; nor whether we shall not allow Europe to carry off all the spoils from the now crumbling Celestial Empire of China; nor yet is it a score of others that may be picked out of speeches and articles turned out just now by the yard and the bushel. THE question is whether or not our capitalist class will allow the chance to slip through their fingers to lower the wages of the American workers ninety per cent or more, and to do so under the guise of patriotic martyrdom.

The situation is this: the wages of the Filipinos are about 10 cents a day; the wages here are 100 cents a day, and a little over in some cases. If the Philippines remain foreign territory, the grand opportunities of 10-cents-a-day labor would be lost to the American capitalist. What with freightage on the goods he would manufacture in the Philippines, duties upon their arrival here, and bribes to the Filipino authorities for freedom to maltreat the natives;—what with all that, the American capitalist would retain precious little, if any, of difference between the 10-cents-a-day Filipino and the 100-cents-a-day American wage-slave. If, on the other hand, the Philippines become American territory, all that is materially changed: the difference in the two scales of wages would substantially stick to our capitalist's fingers,—to the greater glory of Bradley-Martin balls, Seeley dinners, and increase of American titled heiresses.

But one difficulty is here encountered. The difference between the standard of living here and in the Philippines, as indicated by the abrupt difference between the two standards of wages, is such that a natural antipathy is apt to be felt against a project that would join the two countries; and this antipathy, conscious in some quarters, unconscious in others, may grow into an insuperable popular opposition. The difficulty must be over come; if it cannot be vaulted over or flanked, it must be planed off.

If the difficulty arises from the repulsiveness of the idea of joining into one nationality two working classes, one with an infinitely lower standard of wages than the other, the difficulty can be removed or flattened out by reducing the higher standard of life of the one down to, as near as possible, the standard of life of the other. And that is, it is evident by the light of certain events, just what is now being attempted. The following instances are straws pointing out the current's drift.

In Philadelphia, a certain hotel is distributing advertising cards headed by an eagle rampant clutching in its claws the American flag, and under this national emblem it announces as follows:

“Bread and Coffee served for Breakfast; Soup, Coffee and Bread for Supper.

“Lodging, Including Supper and Breakfast, 10 CENTS.”

In Lincoln, Neb., a branch of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, is to be established, and it announces that it undertakes to:

“Supply means to employés at a fraction below \$3.40 per month, i.e., 10 CENTS a day.”

With the standard of living of the wage-slaves in America flattened down almost to that of the Filipinos, the path to the amalgamating of the two will have been paved smooth as the floor of the ball room of a Demo-Republican Bradley-Martin, or of the dining room of a Rep-Democratic Seeley.

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