

# The People.

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EDITORIAL

## TWO SHOTS.

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**N**ow that the Dewey days, with their gala and enthusiasm, are over, the public mind may have sobered down enough to consider seriously what it is that really happened at Manila on May 1, '98.

In the history of our country, two epoch-marking shots were fired. One was fired at Lexington, last century; the other was fired in Manila Bay, last year. Both resounded around the world. At both the world was startled: Both announced the entry on the stage of history of a new element, a new nation, that all others and the world's history had to reckon with.

At Lexington, a hundred years ago, the rattle of musketry proclaimed that colonial America severed the navel-string that connected it with feudalism, and entered upon the era of capitalism; in Manila Bay, last year, the cannon from the *Olympia* proclaimed that plutocratic America severed the navel-string that connected it with capitalist conservatism.

At Lexington, the rattle of musketry marked time for the start of the race between individual efforts in production; the cannon from the *Olympia* marked time that the race was closed, when no individual effort in production could any longer avail.

At Lexington, the rattle of musketry heralded the advent upon the stage of history of a nation of self-supporting citizens; the cannon from the *Olympia* proclaimed that era to be over.

At Lexington, the rattle of musketry ushered in national conservatism and exclusivism; the cannon from the *Olympia* tore exclusivism to shreds and thundered midst the internationally warring nations the fact of the arrival of a new and mighty force on the arena.

At Lexington, the rattle of musketry marked out the field for internal struggle; the cannon from the *Olympia* broke through those boundaries and extended them to the confines of the world.

In short, the musketry at Lexington announced the birth of a social-economic revolution; the cannon from the *Olympia* proclaimed that revolution complete, thereby heralding the approach of the next—the SOCIAL REVOLUTION of our own day.

This is the meaning of the event that occurred in Manila Bay, on May 1, '98; and as such, as a milestone that points with certainty to the imminence of the culminating Revolution of all Revolutions—the Social Revolution, that will give birth to the Socialist Republic—it may well be hailed with joy.

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

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