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EDITORIAL

A WHITENED SEPULCHRE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“YES, Mr. President, the honor of the nation is worth more than the property of the nation!”—These were the words with which Senator Pettus of Alabama apostrophized on December 19 the presiding officer in the Senate chamber. These are burning words, and they frame a noble, burning sentence. What was the occasion?

Was it a welling of the heart and mind in condemnation of the outrages that are being perpetrated in Colorado, where both the nation’s honor and the miners’ branch of the nation’s sinews are being burnt upon the altar of Property—stolen property, at that?

Was the Alabama Senator calling a halt to the orders issued from Federal headquarters, whereby “boys in blue” were made to share with the Colorado militia the infamy of dishonoring the nation by outraging the Colorado miners and protecting the brigand class, which, a newest style of robber-barons, has America’s Working Class, a newest style of serfs, by the throat?

No! And yet again no!—It was about Panama!

The infamy of Panama can not be palliated, or extenuated. Moved by corrupt secret springs, the giant United States has served as midwife to an opera bouffe Republic by violating the nation’s plighted faith. That certainty is dishonorable. No amount of property can atone for that. But has our nation any honor to save abroad, when she is so reckless of her honor at home? Or can the Senator, who sits silent as a tomb in his seat when our honor is being dragged in the gutter at home be considered a sincere guardian of the nation’s self-respect?

Indeed not! The Senators and others, who are upholding the nation’s Panama sharp practice, are at least consistent. The “honor” of their class is safe provided their pockets bulge. But hypocrites are those Senators and others who by their silence endorsing the nation’s dishonor at home, are seeking to wipe the platter clean without when within it is full of foulness!

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