

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 4, NO. 190.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1904.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

“WE BULLY THE WEAK!”

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE President’s “Panama Treaty Message” has been delivered to Congress and published in full in the press. Strange as it might seem, some of the papers, that style themselves “independent,” and that have been seized with moral cramps at the President’s latest strenuousness, are keeping up the comedy. With hands thrown heavenward and eyes rolled back, they are ejaculating: “The country is in danger! Any day we may find ourselves at war with some powerful nation! The President does as he likes and likes what he does!”

The terror of these capitalist and rifle-diet-to-workers papers is as assumed as their spasm of morality on the Panama affair. There is no such danger from the President. Long though the message is, it may be summed up in a short, terse motto—“We Bully the Weak.” And the motto, so far from alarming any foreign powerful nation, pleases them all. It is their own motto. It is the motto they practice abroad, being well drilled in its exercise at home, against the untutored working class. It is, in fact, the motto of capitalism.

No sane man imagines that President Roosevelt will treat England, Germany, France, Russia, or any great power in the manner that he has treated Colombia. The governments of those powers will feel no more concern at the President’s obvious motto “We Bully the Weak,” than the Government of the United States felt alarmed when England practiced the motto in the Transvaal, when Germany practices it in other parts of Africa, when France indulges it in Algiers, or when Russia puts it in operation in Manchuria. On the contrary, the President’s motto is a guarantee to strong powers that they have nothing to fear. No danger of their being bullied.

Safe, accordingly, from the danger of suddenly having to face some powerful foreign invader, it were time for the element upon whom our capitalist government

practices at home its motto of “We Bully the Weak,” to “catch on.” The obverse of the reason why no foreign capitalist government need fear to be bullied by ours, nor ours by theirs, is the reason why the working class of the land is in constant dread of the identical guns, handled by the identical class, that at home despoils them of their substance as Colombia has been despoiled of Panama—WEAKNESS.

The fact being known, the secret being out, that it is only the weak who need fear bullying, why should the natural Giant Labor allow itself to be kept an unnatural Pigmy Labor?

It is in the natural giant’s power, whenever it wills, to snap the bands that unnaturally crimp it into a pigmy, and, stepping into the shoes of power, put an end not only to the bullying of itself, but also the disgraceful motto itself that legitimizes bullying.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded March 2007

slpns@igc.org