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EDITORIAL

THE YELLOW PERIL.

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THE *Bache Review*, being “A summary of the general financial and business situation,” has this item in its summary:

“Another danger confronts us in the far East—the Yellow Peril.

“According to well-known steel makers in this country, says the Boston News Bureau, there is reason for apprehension in tremendous activity of Japanese steel making endeavors. Five or six years ago there were only two small steel plants in Japan and China. Then the Japanese branched out and the Chinese followed suit. To-day in two plants they are employing more men than any steel company in the world, with the exception of the Steel Corporation, and about one-third as many as the latter. Both plants are manufacturing a good grade of products and a fine grade of bessemer rails. Good ore is found in both countries. Each plant employs about 25,000 men and women.”

The frankness of the statement both in the *Bache Review* and by the Boston News Bureau deserves applause. It amounts to a confession. It is a definition of the “Yellow Peril”; and the definition does branch-and-root work with the regulation claim that the feeling against the “Yellow Peril” is a lofty one. The definition brands the term “Yellow Peril” a false pretence by the aid of which Inferiority seeks to bolster itself against Superiority, and seeks to do so by insinuating a slander. The statement in the *Bache Review* clearly indicates that Japanese and Chinese industry, if at all inferior to ours, is inferior only because of its youth, and that in due time, the youth will be an adult—a “peril” to nativistic arrogance.

But the statement in the *Bache Review* throws light over a larger area than would seem at first blush. It throws light upon the A.F. of L. menials of the “imperiled.”

The A.F. of L. has set its face against “Oriental Immigration.” The reason given

is that the Oriental “lowers the standard of living,”—another set of words for “Yellow Peril.” Those who have looked into the A.F. of L. claim will understand the *Bache Review* all the better. Orientals, Japanese in particular, whenever they have a chance demand higher wages than the faithful to the A.F. of L. creed; and what is more, the Japanese understand the meaning of “Solidarity of Labor.” Japanese labor has frequently brought the blush of shame to the cheeks of the not wholly debauched A.-F.-of-L.-ites. To scab upon fellow wage slaves, especially when on strike, or to underbid fellow wage slaves at work and take their places under the mantle of Unionism,—these are practices which, however every-day among Gompers’s chicks, are hardly known among the Japanese wage earners in America.

The secret of the A.F. of L.’s animosity towards the “Yellow Peril” is illumined by the secret of the manufacturers’ dread of the “Peril.” Like the two candles in the shack hotel that Mark Twain tells of, and both of which he needed in his room—each to see the other by—the two yells of “Yellow Peril,” one from the manufacturers’ camp, the other from the camp of the manufacturers’ labor-lieutenants, supplement each other. Each is needed fully to appreciate the other.

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