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EDITORIAL

## A BREATH OF “’76.”

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**W**HEN Jacob Schiff, the banker of Dummy-Directorate celebrity, raised a few years ago the howl and cry about the “Open Door” being shut in our face in the Far East, and immediately thereupon President Taft’s Secretary of State Knox delivered his ultimatum to the five powers, who were negotiating a loan to China, demanding that they admit American bankers to the trough, the *Daily People* commented upon the event as one most ominously Imperialistic and Militarist.

The “Open Door” means equality of rights on the part of foreign nations to do business in another. The “Open Door” means absence of tariff and other legislative discrimination.

When the Republic of China was proclaimed she needed money. The shark Plutocracy saw its opportunity. Four Powers—Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia—foregathered to establish the foundation for measures hostile to the integrity of the new Republic. Then, Japan elbowed herself into the dark-lantern conspiracy. Thus a Five Powers plan was hatched to raise the funds that China needed, and thereby secure actual political responsibility in the country. The conditions imposed upon the young republic the pledging of particular taxes to secure the loan, and also the administration of those taxes. The Five Powers plan obviously was a menace to the administrative independence of China.

To demand admission as a member of the dark-lantern conspirators against China, and to do so under the plea of the “Open Door” in China, was obviously a revolting piece of chicanery diplomacy. This was exactly what the American bankers (urged thereto, as they pretend, by the Taft Administration) and the Taft Administration (probably but too willingly wire-pulled to that end) did when Secretary

Knox growled his ultimatum.

The statement of President Woodrow Wilson, closing with the words: "Our interests are those of the Open Door—a door of friendship and mutual advantage. This is the only door we care to enter"—that statement smashed the dark-lantern in the hands of its holders, and, so far as America is concerned, put a mighty spoke into the wheel of plutocratic Imperialism, together with its evil sequel of Militarism.

Whether our Plutocracy take a hand in the partitioning of China, or not, is no economic issue that concerns our Proletariat—that is true. But this other is true also—the Proletariat of the land may gather inspiration from the sight of the dark-lantern crushed, and the sound of then dark lantern shivered, at the "Breath of '76," which breathes the principle that people shall be allowed to work out their own salvation as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

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