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SECOND EDITORIAL

That Monroe Doctrine

By DANIEL DE LEON

Upon his nomination for Governor in Ohio by the Democratic convention, Mr. CAMPBELL made a speech in the course of which he referred to the inroads of England in Venezuela and to her recent collection of British debts at the mouth of the cannon in Nicaragua. On this subject Mr. CAMPBELL said:

“Let it be well known and understood that any attempt by an un-American nation to seize a foot of American soil will be treated as a declaration of war against the United States.”

This language on the lips of a capitalist politician like Mr. CAMPBELL is not only hypocritical and pharisaic, it is treasonable. It is treasonable because it has and can have no object other than that which the pickpocket has when he tips the left side of the hat of an intended victim so as to rifle his right hand side pocket. Mr. CAMPBELL'S language is intended to help to draw attention away from the treason to the country by the American capitalist class and its lackeys, the Democratic and Republican politicians, from Presidents down, so as to give freer swing to the spoiling of our people.

True, England is taking possession of Venezuelan soil, but what are the English and European capitalists in general doing with our own United States soil? Have they not got possession of tracts of land in the United States larger than many a principality? do not they hold by marriage with our “heiresses,” the spawn of our idle capitalists, untold bonds and stocks of American industries? did not the United States Supreme Court decide on the Income Tax question that land without the returns of land is of no avail? and does it not follow that to sponge up the wealth produced by the toilers in America in the shape of rent, dividends and profit is the very essence of physical possession?

And as to the brutal way of collecting debts from Nicaragua, what essential difference

is there between that and the brutal way of our Republican and Democratic Presidents and Governors in sending the military and the militias to shoot down strikers, and of the Judges to issue “gatling guns upon paper” and imprisoning strikers? British capitalists wanted some fleecings from Nicaragua and the President of Nicaragua refused to do for them the dirty work of dragooning the Nicaraguans into the paying of tribute; but here in America, when a strike will interfere with the flow of dividends and profits—fleecings for short—, into the pockets of these European lordlings, then our own Republican and Democratic Presidents, Governors and Judges attend to the dirty work of seeing to it that our workers be properly downed and bled.

Monroe Doctrine, for sooth! The word has become an insult when uttered by the capitalists. We are reconquered; our capitalist politicians have been the traitors with whose aid the thing has been accomplished and is now enforced; from their politically foresworn lips least of all should the word drop, or when it passes those lying lips it should scorch them with shame.

The Monroe Doctrine can be invoked only by the Socialists. Only they can guard the dignity of America because only they will wipe out the barnacle class which like a swarm of devouring locusts is preying upon the world.

[Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the Official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.](#)

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