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EDITORIAL

## THE LIE AND THE FATUITY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“IF China ever awakes, she will have to devote years to getting rid of foreign capitalists who have got a hold on her through their railways, mines, docks and seaports. Young Turkey is in the same position, only more so,”—so writes the political and financial London correspondent of the *New York Evening Post*.

This is delivering the message of Socialism to the Working Class of America from the top-most pulpit of capitalism in the land. It also is the administering of a stiff tweak to the ear of whosoever is sufficiently innocent to give an ear to the so-called Socialist party's preaching about “buying out the capitalist.”

Every capitalist plant—railroad, mine, factory, shop, whatever it be—is a rein and bit, saddle, surcingle, halter and martingale to curb, dominate and run and ride the Nation, that is, the working part of the Nation in which such plant is established. The real owner of such a Nation is the class that holds the plant. It is a conclusion, from which the facts offer no escape, that popular freedom demands the popular ownership, operation and conduct of a Nation's plant of production. So sayeth Socialism, and challenges contradiction.

The pronouncement of Socialism is, of course, promptly denied by the class whose hands hold the means to curb, dominate, run and ride. Yet, deny as it may, it can not choose but occasionally let the truth escape. Consistent lying is the hardest of things. As may be judged from the admission published by the *Evening Post*, consistent lying is impossible.

Under the shadow of the ruins of the capitalist Denial lies, thrown down beside the Lie, the fatuity of the notion to “buy out.” If, even capitalistically administered, a country would have “to devote years to getting rid of foreign capitalists” who have there set up their plants, how many years of continued tribute-paying must not

oppress the nation that “buys out”?

The Movement that demands the abolition of Capitalism is a Movement that demands human emancipation. Compromises may be episodes in a great struggle. The compromise never can be the goal. Armistices are not treaties of peace. The Treaty of Peace that is to abolish Capitalism is one that the Revolution will dictate. Revolutions, successful enough to dictate terms, do not extend the lease of the foe’s life.

Laid out by the heels together are both the capitalist Lie of Capital being a direct imparter of freedom, and the reformer’s Fatuity of dealing with the Revolution over a bargain counter.

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