

# The People.

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EDITORIAL

## RAMRODDING FREEDOM.

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Last week's battle of Manila is said to have cost the lives of over 5,000 Filipinos. These men had a notion that the country of their birth is their own. Arms in hand, they resisted the Spanish yoke, and succeeded to the extent that Spanish sovereignty over the whole Archipelago never was more than a nominal fact. A quarrel broke out between their tyrant and a foreign nation. They looked with joy at what seemed divine interposition, and aided the United States to drive out Spain. Freed from Spain, they imagined themselves freed from all foreign yoke. Not so. Our capitalist Government forthwith claimed possession by "conquest," and assumed the rôle of a dispenser of freedom in a style quite its own. "These Filipinos," our Government claimed, "do not know what freedom means; we must teach them." The teaching is now going on; the first lesson has been given. With the ramrod as instrument, "Freedom" is to be jammed down the throats of the insurgent patriots whom our expansionist capitalists insult with the name of "insurgents."

But the freedom-ramrodding process is not going on in the distant Philippines only. For every Filipino slaughtered beyond the Pacific a workingman is slaughtered, or the foundation is being laid for his being slaughtered right here in the United States. Over the prostrate bodies only of the "insurgent" Filipinos can our Government march to the establishment of its peculiar "freedom"-promoting social system in that Archipelago. The establishment of American factories in the Philippines is equivalent with a leveling process of wages here that will be given the name of "equalization" but which in fact spells MURDER.

Murder? Yes or no, as the case may be.

YES, if Socialist teachings do not gain upon Capitalist falsehood, and the masses of the workers are kept in the delusion that the Capitalist System is for all time;

NO, if Socialist teachings outstrip Capitalist falsehood, and the masses of the workers, awakened to the sense of the dignity and duty of their class, rise in their

might and mop the floor with the capitalist class by flattening them out with the Socialist ballot.

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

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