

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 1, NO. 197.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 1901.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

PERPETUAL WAR.

By DANIEL DE LEON

The *Record and Guide*, a capitalist publication, contributes a valuable piece of admission by which to gauge the “development of society.”

Socialism maintains that capitalism means war; it means a status of perpetual warfare. This fact does not at first appear plain to all. The industrial war, not being conducted with the blare of trumpets and the flash of the gun, is generally given the sweet-sounding name of “conquests of peace.” Only the most clear-sighted perceive the carnage, however much it is hidden away.

But the “conquests of peace” can not long keep up the external appearance of peace. A time comes when the “conquests of peace” are forced to cast off their comedy trappings and to stand out in full war outfit. Even then the attempt is made to conceal the fact by prefixing the word “temporary” to the bloody plight. That is the juncture we have reached in the “development of society,” and it is at this juncture that the admission made by *Record and Guide* is of special value. It says:

“According to the legal fiction, which the Powers have chosen to maintain, peace with China has never been broken. The fact at present seems to be, however, that a genuine peace will never be restored. It is incredible that any people, so long as they preserved any united racial or national feeling, could permanently submit to the terms which the Powers have dictated. By them China is placed practically under a joint European protectorate. The purpose of the protectorate is, of course, the industrial exploitation of China, and the Chinese Government itself will exist chiefly for the purpose of carrying out the wishes of the Powers. But such an anomalous condition of things cannot persist. If the Imperial Government gathers strength after the crisis, it will use that strength for the purpose of gradually freeing itself from the intolerable restrictions of foreign tutelage. If, on the other hand, it does not gather strength it will not be able to keep order in the distant provinces and industry and commerce will suffer from constant local and patriotic outbreaks. Either alternative means little by little a more effective military occupation of China than the present treaty provides for, and the gradual enforced dismemberment of the country.

Doubtless the European governments appreciate this fact to its fullest extent, but they are anxious for various reasons not to have the question raised acutely at present. They would rather wait until industrially and commercially they have secured a firmer foothold in the interior of China, and until they are better prepared for aggressive measures. Then they are all hoping to obtain some advantage over their rivals which will enable them to secure a larger division of the spoils.”

Thus this “enfant terrible,” the *Record and Guide* neatly punctures all the capitalist contentions of the Powers being “in China for China’s good,” to “restore order,” etc.

Incidentally the *Record and Guide* throws a side light at the move now going on in Congress towards raising a standing army of not less than 100,000 men, as the starter for one many times that size.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded October 2005