

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 175.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1905.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## KICKING CHRISTIAN ETHICS OVERBOARD.

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**P**ARTLY in obedience to the instinct that tells it that the Red Flag, the international emblem of Socialism, bodes no good to its masters, the brigand class of the capitalist; partly unable to disengage its mind from the color of the mock and the regular auctioneer's rag, which flutters as the emblem of the combined fraudulency and wreckage that marks the tracks of capitalism; partly also due to its trained ignorance;—the Spokane, Wash., *Evening Chronicle* of the 14th instant indulges in some incoherent sputterings against the Red Flag of the Socialist Labor Party. He who raises his voice against that which the emblem of International Socialism symbolizes traduces likewise that which the American flag was meant to stand for.

When the flag of the then recently emancipated American colonies was first settled upon, Franklin, the towering genius of the Revolution, said he hoped for, and in his mind's eye saw, the day when, in the blue field of the American flag, there would be, not thirteen stars only, but a constellation of as many stars as there were nations in the world, all united in one fraternal embrace, with that international flag as the symbol of peace on earth, good will among men. It matters little whether the course of events will, indeed, raise the Starry Blue Field, as the signal of the realization of Franklin's thought and aspiration, the thought and aspiration of the first sociologist who saw and announced the truth that "property is the creature of society". Whatever symbol patentizes the accomplished fact, whatever symbol points at the same lofty goal and ideal, that symbol deserves the respect only of whomsoever is a worthy son or daughter of this century. In the course of events, that which Franklin expected to be symbolized by the Starry Blue Field was practically taken in hand by the International Socialist Movement, which, disinherited everywhere, took up an emblem of its own, and which, seeing the

nations of the earth red with one another's blood, took from the very color of that dye the color of its flag—a mute-eloquent announcement of the Brotherhood of Man, despite whatever external differences race, color or creed may have wrought.

The class that the Spokane *Evening Chronicle* is a spokesman of is the class of the “Big Stick”; it is the class whose hands are imbrued in the blood of the Philippines abroad, and strains for navies with which to imbrue its hands in the blood of still other peoples; it is the class that, at home, keeps alive racial and other animosities, thereby deepening the cleft between the workers to the end that it may at leisure batten on their blood and marrow; in short, it is the class that has desecrated that for which Franklin meant the American flag to stand, and for which the flag of International Socialism stands to-day. He who really and intelligently loves the American flag must respect the flag of International Socialism. It is this flag that will cleanse the smut that now disfigures the flag that Franklin helped to unfurl; aye, it is this flag that to-day is ushering in the age that the Prophets foretold, and that Christian ethics preach—the Age, pooh-poohed at by the Capitalist Class—the Age when swords shall be turned into pruning-hooks and spears into plow-shares.

An audacious hierarch of an anti-Christian, anti-civilized gospel is he who throws mud at the Red Flag of International Socialism—the emblem of the best aspirations of the human race since recorded history, aspirations unrealized before, realizable and about to be realized to-day.

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

Uploaded January 2009

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