

# The People.

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SECOND EDITORIAL

## Quite Natural.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**he cable from Europe brings the news that the German Government is not at all friendly to us, and is quite friendly to Spain. This has given rise to the question, Why is this so?

The answer is plain, but only to those who are not affected by the prevailing St. Vitus' dance of "patriotism." These know why McKinley declared war; knowing that, they can understand why the German Kaiser would also like a war.

McKinley declared war not because he wanted to fight Spain but because his class needed a war, with whom was a matter of secondary consideration. Spain was picked out because she furnished a handy pretext. The McKinley class has an election on its hands. This fall Congressmen are to be chosen. There is danger of a Bryan victory. A war always tends to strengthen the chances of the administration in power. Hence a war was needed by the gold standard capitalists to take the political wind out of the sails of their silver standard capitalist competitors. The sugar trust and similar interests certainly pushed for war, but they were not enough to bring it on. The pending Congressional elections did.

Now then, that is just the case with the Kaiser. He also has an election on his hands. It is to come off next month, and it is burning his hands like a hot potato. He would have dissolved the Reichstag a year or two ago, but his investigations showed that a new Reichstag would not be an improvement on the present one; he would lose one set of enemies but only to gain more and a worse set of foes in the Reichstag: the Socialist delegation there would increase. But now the Reichstag expires by limitation; a new election must be held; and the horizon is black for the Kaiser—as black as for McKinley, with the only difference that the election cloud that threatens the Kaiser is one that is beneficent to civilization, seeing it is thoroughly impregnated with Socialism, while the election cloud that threatens McKinley is one no better than himself, seeing it is but another manifestation of capitalism, to wit, Bryanism.

It is, accordingly, quite natural that the Kaiser, too, should be anxious for a war—for a thing that is best calculated to side-track burning political issues.

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