

The People.

VOL. VIII, NO. 9

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 29, 1898

PRICE 2 CENTS

THIRD EDITORIAL

A Typical Sight.

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Our American officers, the officers in whose keeping our national independence is placed, our national honor, and, with that, our traditions as a nation, performed last Tuesday in the military camp at Tampa a scene that is well worth recording, memorizing, and rubbing in.

It was Queen Victoria's birthday, the birthday of the ruler under whose long rule not thousands, but hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of East Indians have died of starvation; the ruler under whose rule England has covered herself with laurels—only when they were to be rung from semi-savages; but has been covered with shameful defeat every time it encountered the white race, as happened twice recently in South Africa; the ruler under whose rule practical slavery exists at our very doors in the West Indies; the ruler under whose rule the *Alabama* was built and EQUIPPED to commit depredations upon our commerce, and give the Southern slave-holders a chance to preserve their system and break down the Union.

That ruler's birthday was the subject of celebration at Tampa by our army officers! And, as if that were not infamy enough, the British flag, under whose folds all the above enumerated crimes were committed—that flag appeared over the banquet table of our army officers INTERTWINED WITH THE AMERICAN FLAG.

That celebration was a disgrace to the Nation; that intertwining of our own with the British flag was treason to all that our flag is claimed to stand for by the class in whose keeping it now is.

But above the treason, and thanks to the boldness, the brazenness with which it is committed, looms the lesson. The Irish proletariat of America, so large a portion of our working class, and so important a fraction thereof, will certainly perceive the oneness of the class they follow here and the class they fled from across the ocean. And, so perceiving, will hasten to stop allowing themselves longer to be used for fools.

The ruling, the capitalist class of America is one with the ruling class of England. To the former, the American flag is but a blind; their real flag is the English, being the flag under which modern capitalism was really born. To the latter, true always to their flag, the American flag is but a bait to catch gudgeons with.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded December 2003