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FIRST EDITORIAL

EUROPEANIZING WITH A VENGEANCE.

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The latest occurrence in connection with our march towards our “manifest destiny” is the discovery made that the mail from the Philippines is being tampered with by United States authorities. Letters sent home by our soldiers around Manila have been carefully opened and resealed, and whole pages were abstracted. As far as the inquiry goes it is established that the pages that were abstracted contained local information that it was undesirable should reach the public that must now be nursed on Expansion Pap.

It is a favorite method with many a European Government to violate the secrecy of the mail; secrets are thus discovered; prosecutions are thus made possible; and the hand of the Ruler is thus extended into the most private corners of the home. All this is necessary to usurped power: the clearer the usurpation becomes and, accordingly, the more “disloyal” the oppressed grow, all the more necessary is the method.

Our Ruling Class is rapidly Europeanizing us. Only the other day standing armies were decried as “un-American,” large navies as “snobbery,” colonial possessions as “enervating tyranny.” But suddenly all these objections are dropped, and “our manifest destiny” makes us take up these formerly objectionable things. Why is this thus? Is it a fad, a whim? No, it is an additional illustration of the fact that opinions are not the foundation but the reflexion of material class interests.

The capitalist class can no longer itself consume all the wealth it plunders the working class of. Even if it riots in debauchery and luxury, the heap of plunder waxes ever larger. What shall be done therewith? To let it rot won't do; that would result in positive inconvenience. Besides, the economic laws, working at one end of the line, and that produce at the other end of the line what is called greed,—the driving and straining of the competition that, despite concentration of individual industries, keeps the pot of the Capitalist Class boiling—, compels the Capitalist to turn his plunder to profit; if he does not he may find his plundering power itself maimed. As the result of this, markets have to be opened. The home market being scuttled by starvation wages,

foreign markets become needful. Once landed outside of our own boundaries, our Capitalist Class finds itself at the international banquet table, there it can't sit down except it can maintain its seat, and it can not maintain its seat without it is armed to the teeth. Thus the material needs of the Capitalist Class forthwith molds its notions of "Americanism," and what was "un-American," etc., before its needs required it, promptly becomes the pink of Americanism just as soon as needed by the material interest of Capitalism. Thus navies and armies become the acme of patriotism, and thus also the tampering with the mails becomes a necessity, a necessary prop.

We are getting there. One by one the things that were considered peculiarly European and correspondingly un-American are being naturalized here. And this is as it should be. But so, likewise, Socialism, once decried as utterly un-American has earned its rights of citizenship. Similar causes, similar effects.

[Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.](#)
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