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EDITORIAL

## A RETURN TO “APPEARANCES.”

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**T**he recommendation contained in the report, transmitted last Friday to Congress by the President on the situation in the Philippines, may be said to mark an epoch in the War-Hurrah policy of the nation; along with that, the recommendation marks the turning point where our rulers return to their policy of “Appearances.”

The policy of “Appearances” is a policy that makes its debut with the overthrow of Feudalism and the rise of Capitalism. Both Feudalism and Capitalism, being grounded on oppression, rule with a mailed hand. But there is this difference: Feudalism smites with a mailed hand, and wants you to know it: Capitalism smites with a mailed hand, but don’t want you to know it, it conceals the mail in a glove of velvet. Feudalism, consequently, has an open face, it is frank, it disdains “Appearances;” Capitalism, on the other hand, is hypocritical, it revels in false pretense, “Appearances” is its mask.

This explains the wooden-Indian immobility of face with which the capitalist proclaims zeal for work, while he practises sloth; with which he declaims on his love for the workingman, while he shoots him down in the back; with which he lectures on equality before the law, while he legislates the toilers out of Court; with which he speechifies on the “sacredness of the family,” while he rends it in twain and pollutes it; with which he sermonizes on honesty, while he practises chicanery; with which he discourses on peace while he wades through slaughter to rapine. All these manifestations of hypocrisy are established “social institutions” with Capitalism: of the last, the world witnessed a glaring spectacle during the last week, when speeches were made, resolutions passed and songs sung to her “peace-loving, humane qualities,” at the bier of a queen, whose long reign literally dripped with human gore, and whose eyes were closed in death to the funeral dirge of her murderous musketry in South Africa.

It is now nearing three years since one of these “Appearances”—the

“Appearance” of love for peace while practising carnage—was here temporarily suspended. A War-Hurrah policy was given the right of way. The nation was made to swagger in military uniform. The exigencies of Capitalism temporarily required the fanfare of War. The people had to be intoxicated to their own undoing. The rattle of arms alone was thought efficient. And so it went on for nearly three years. The public mind was treated every morning to a griddle-cake plate of fried Filipinos, and every evening to a desert of “American Prowesses.” But this could not continue. The Filipinos refused to accommodate our American capitalists; on the other hand, our own people got tired of “prowessing” with their blood for the benefit of valorous absentees. This change in the public mind has been noticed by our rulers; they are now acting upon it. And thus it comes that now, right upon the heels of the passing of a bill for an increased army to put down the “Filipino Rebellion,” with the American government in possession of just 420 military posts on the Islands, and the whole territory, outside of those 420 small posts, ablaze against our domination,—now and under these conditions the President, with wooden-Indian immobility of face, speaks of “peace being restored on the Islands” and recommends legislation for “civil” instead of “military control.”

The War-Hurrah game having run its course, our capitalist Government now re-dons the mask of peace, and resumes the policy of “Appearances.”

Rule by “civil government” will be talked; rule by carnage will be acted.

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

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