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EDITORIAL

## “GOOD!” SAYS JENKS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**P**ROFESSOR Jeremiah W. Jenks has made to the Secretary of War certain recommendations looking to the importation of Chinese Labor under contract in the Philippines. Needless to say that the Professor's recommendations are off-shoots of the purposes at {the} bottom of the forcible annexation of the 10,000,000 Filipinos to the United States.

The annexation of the Philippine Islands had for its purpose the dumping into the already overstocked Labor Market of America the hordes of cheap Labor that could not be conveniently deported into our territory. The annexation of the Filipinos was intended as a masterly flank move, out-flanking and catching in the rear the Anti-Immigration Movements in America. Instead of importing cheap Labor, America, so to speak, deported herself to the cheap Labor. The end was the same. At least the purpose was the same.

“Clever” tho’ the move was, its clever schemers ran up against a fact they had not counted with: the climatic characteristics of the peoples they had annexed. The Filipino has no “sense of push”: he won’t be driven: he likes to take things easy: he has an aggravating inclination to enjoy life while he lives. Professor Jenks’ recommendations are intended to meet the unexpected difficulty. The Chinese, with a mania for work and meekness, are right at hand, at the very doors of the Philippine Islands. To them the Professor turns his eyes. His recommendations are a sort of “Supplementary Treaty of Paris.” By the Treaty of Paris the American capitalist class meant, but did not quite succeed, to secure all the cheap Labor they hanker after; by Professor Jenks’ recommendations the boon is to be nailed fast. Not only is the Chinese to be allowed free ingress into the Islands, but he may be brought in by contract.

As Professor Jenks was complacently rubbing his hands at his supplementary

master-scheme, his gladness was suddenly checked, at least somewhat. His eagle eye detected danger: his keen nose smelled it. The swindle of the Treaty of Paris upon the Working Class of America was boosted over the stile by the double cry of “Patriotism!” and “Prosperity!” There is not now any cry of “Patriotism!”; and, as to “Prosperity!”, that cry is choked in the revelations before the Coal Arbitration Commission; it is choked in the sufferings of increasing numbers of unemployed; it is choked in the statistical figures that tell of a positive decline in wages of over 30 per cent. since 1890; it is choked in the panicky condition of Wall street, where all these and many more symptoms of national distress are speedily felt. With the cry of “Patriotism!” un-invokable, and conditions so distressing that the cry of “Prosperity!” would turn into a sob, the supplemental swindle of Professor Jenks’ Chinese Labor recommendations seemed in danger. The Professor saw and smelled the danger, when, lo!, help comes to him from an unexpected quarter.

A circular appears. It carries six signatures—a sort of six-tandem affair, fitly vanned by Hanna’s First Vice-President, Gompers, and the rear fitly brought up by Hanna’s Eleventh Vice-President, Hoyim Korkorowsky, alias Henry White. The circular is upon Professor Jenks’ recommendations. It seems to have a hostile coloring. But what of that? That only adds to its real service to the Professor’s schemes. It closes with a loud trumpet blast in honor of “THE GROUND ALREADY GAINED AT HOME”!!!

“Good!” said Professor Jenks. “‘Ground already gained at home,’ when the ‘gain’ consists in a steady sinking, is as good as the ‘Prosperity!’ cry in aid of the Treaty of Paris when the dinner pail was growing slenderer.”

“Good!” said Professor Jenks once more, “the game is safe!”

And he smiled in placid contentment.

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

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