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FIRST EDITORIAL

Welcome, Keir Hardie!

By DANIEL DE LEON

At the Atlantic gate of the United States we welcome in our country JAMES KEIR HARDIE—the first Briton who on the floor of the British Parliament upheld the banner of the proletariat and uttered its demands in blunt, bold, eloquent and firm language.

At this season, when national capitalisms are recognizing their international kinship and drawing close the international bonds of the idle, the immoral, the usurping class, it is a sign of deep significance to see the same thing happening, the internationally close drawing together, among the working class of all nations, who, recognizing no race, creed or color, but alive to the oneness of their class interests, the identity of their class conditions, refuse to be longer divided among themselves and used as food for cannon against one another by their common oppressor, the now international capitalist class.

KEIR HARDIE is a representative of the British division of the international Socialist Labor party, and of the New Trade Unionist movement, which, having emancipated itself from the narrow bonds of Old Style or “Pure and Simple” Trade Unionism, has stepped into the arena equipped both with the economic shield of the strike and boycott and the political sword of the Socialist ballot, to overthrow the capitalist system.

We heartily wish our British comrade success in his trip through the United States. We wish him success for our own sakes and for his. For our own sakes, because the work he has laid out for himself can not fail to push along the revolutionary movement of the American proletariat; for his own sake, because every recruit he enlists here in the American division of the international movement of labor will draw nearer the day of the emancipation of his own British and Irish fellow proletarians at home. America is the great strategic point of the Social Revolution.

As the shot fired at Lexington was heard the world round, so will the victory of the Socialist Labor party of America have for its immediate and inevitable result the dropping of the fetters off the European proletariat and their stepping into freedom.

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

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