

EDITORIAL

CARRION-CROWS OVER CHINA.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE revolution in China is developing novel manifestations.

For long, the circumstance that the revolution did, from the start, emit the cry for a republic, and put that program through, seemed unimaginably novel. It seemed so novel that that one circumstance seemed to place its stamp upon the event.

This was a premature conclusion.

Hitherto the outside capitalist world looked at all convulsions in China with a jealous eye—as Japan is doing now. Hitherto, realizing that efforts, which proceed from the people for better things, have a tendency to develop clean beyond their original and modest aspirations, the outside capitalist world looked upon the slightest “disorder” in China as a danger that had to be stamped out quick as possible, if not quicker—and they acted upon the principle.

It has been otherwise this trip. The capitalist world—Japan excepted—determined upon keeping “hands off.” And now comes the information that the revolution has been actually financed by the Standard Oil.

Superficially looked at, the information would only seem to underscore the impression regarding the real novelty in the Chinese situation. More closely and broadly conned the information reveals the novelest feature of all.

While, in the United States, the Standard Oil has outgrown the early bourgeois stage of republicanism and is tending with might and main back to the extreme reaction of feudalism, that same concern is seen to find its account in the progressiveness of bourgeois republicanism abroad. Thus one and the same concern reveals elasticity enough to hold radically different language at the same time, only in different localities. It took the revolution in China to bring about so novel a sociologic manifestation.

Of course, such a novelty casts an unhappy horoscope for China. When to this fact is added the information that our Washington Government—still redolent of the disgracefulness of its conduct in Panama, where, under the pretext of upholding its treaty obligation to “guarantee the integrity of Colombian territory,” itself fomented a revolution on the Isthmus, backed it up with U.S. Marines and tore that State away from Colombia—that that identical Washington Government is now stepping forward as the guarantor of the integrity of Chinese territory, the spectacle is obvious that carrion crow are gathering over China.

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