

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 6.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1909.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

A GERMAN CHOCTAW.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WILHELM SCHWARZE, a judge and also leading member of the German Reichstag, utters a note of warning and alarm to all Europe against what he calls the “American peril.”

Judge Schwarze, it is clear from all he says, does not fear a physical conquest of Europe by America. What he condenses into the term the “American peril,” and which he considers more dangerous and imminent than the “Yellow peril,” is the inroad of American ethics along with American products, whereby “the dollar will annihilate the shilling and the mark.” In short, he fears that American capitalism will smoke out European habits.

Of course it will.

When the North American Indian felt pressed and driven ever further West, many an Indian chief gathered his savage people around some hill-top, and also issued to them the “note of warning,” calling upon them to drop their mutual feuds, jealousies and rivalries, and turn their thoughts to the common enemy. It all was of no avail. Despite his many virtues, the Indian was at a backward, despite his many vices the white invader was at an advanced stage of social evolution. The Indian had to go, there was no help for him. The more powerful tool-weapon and weapon-tool in the hand of the invader rendered the weaker tool-weapon and weapon-tool of the Indian a useless thing in the struggle that he had to sustain. Impassioned as was the rhetoric of the Indian warner, true as were the charges that he hurled at the invader, heroic though the posture which he and his struck—all availed naught. He had to go—and he went.

Precisely so with the virtues that Judge Schwarze prizes. All the vices he imputes to American capitalism are imputed truly; all the virtues he declares are in danger are so, indeed. In short, infinitely more ominous is the “American peril” than

the “Yellow peril” to Europe. Yet all that matters not. The “dollar” is bound to beat the “shilling and the mark”—in other words, capitalism is bound to beat feudalism.

And well it is 'tis so. Capitalism is the great solvent which corrodes, disintegrates, and undermines Class-Rule. Without Capitalism the path for Socialism would be blocked.

Herr William Schwarze may not have cheeks painted with ochre, nor hawk's feathers stuck in his head. Nevertheless, ochre-painted are the cheeks, feather-ornamented is the head of his intellect. He is no better than a Choctaw in thunder.

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

Uploaded September 2010

slpns@slp.org