

EDITORIAL

## WHAT ABOUT THAT HAGUE COURT?

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE country is within an ace of war with Mexico?  
How, war? and war with Mexico? Impossible!  
Why so?

Are not the United States a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of the Hague, and what is more, is not Mexico also a member of that Court? How can there be war between the two countries “to start with”? Are they not solemnly pledged to each other to submit their disagreements to an arbitral award? Mexico does not start the violation of that “pact which is to promote peace on earth.” Is it imaginable that the United States would start the violating? Hardly. Moreover have not the United States on that Court, as one of their representatives the Hon. Oscar S. Straus? And did not the Hon. Straus “soak it into” the Socialists for refusing to take stock in the success, or sincerity of the Court, and for going even so far as to ridicule the Court and pronounce it a pretext for fat places for Honorables out of a job? Did not the Honorable frown indignantly at the Socialists for their “cynicism touching lofty endeavors”? Did not the Honorable condemn the Socialists as men without charity, without knowledge, and without other good things, and possessed, instead, of a vicious instinct that disabled them from seeing the rapid strides of the Honorables towards the fraternity of nations? All this being thus how on earth can the United States take up arms even before airing its grievances at the bar of that august tribunal whose highbrow’s fiat was to cause the war drum to lose its cunning?

There is this about theory—it is good or bad according as it is sound or unsound; and it is sound or unsound according as it is grounded on fact or on fancy. There is something else, besides this, about theory. Where it is unsound it is either born of hypocrisy, or leads straight to hypocrisy. That is the case with that Hague

Court of Arbitration. The undisputable facts about it mark it unsound. The Capitalist Class has Capitalist interests; Capitalist interests mean strife. Men who are not hypocrites, but who do not know their knees from elbows on social matters, in other words, visionaries, may expect international peace from capitalist agencies; men who know, men who are at all posted, know better, and justly brand Hague Courts as shows set up to keep the people in false gaze—and the actors in prominence and cash.

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