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SECOND EDITORIAL

A Kingdom in the Receiver's Hands.

By DANIEL DE LEON

The closing days of the century are witnessing what might be taken for extravaganzas or fin de siècle sights, but which Socialists, being able to understand what they see, realize to be simply logical, natural climaxes of capitalism. We have seen railroad lines and whole railroad system put into the receiver's hands; we have seen metropolitan papers, these arrogant pretenders to the public ministry of enlightening and directing the public mind, put into the receiver's hands; we have seen churches, said by their wardens to be dedicated to the worship of God, but unable to pay the bills of star singers and sensational preachers, land unceremoniously into the hands of the receiver—all of them to be administered for the benefit of the private pockets that they were all alike intended to fill. All this and much more of the same sort have we seen; the war now raging between Greece and Turkey furnishes the capsheaf to a monument which commemorates the fact that everything under the influence of capitalism is reducable to dollars and cents; that all its institutions are capitalist undertakings for profits, whatever mask—moral, religious, patriotic—such institutions may wear; and that, at a given moment, all pretences are laid aside just so soon as the pretences interfere with the regular flow of profits.

Those who do not know the secret that a nation under capitalist rule is nothing but a huge business firm, run for the benefit of capitalists, will not understand the full meaning of the recent cable dispatches to the effect that a commission has been created to manage the Greek finances and “pay the debts” of the country. This, in other words, means that the Kingdom of Greece is ordered into the receiver's hands.

The foremen of the “business house,” known under the firm name of the “Greek Government,” having ceased to run the enterprise in a way profitable to the stockholders, these have decided to place the actual administration of the concern into the hands of a commission of stockholders—just as is done with railroads, soap factories and woolen mills. The King, the Court and other clerks of the stockholders may or may not continue in nominal office, the real rule will henceforth be in the hands of the capitalist bosses. What has happened in Greece may happen anywhere else—unless

the Social Revolution throw overboard both bosses and lackeys—capitalists and their politicians—and place the national establishment in the nation's hands, to be run, not for idlers but for the benefit of the workers.

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

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